Bengaluru Monday, December 8, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 338 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Norris seals maiden F1 crown

Briton finishes third in the season finale to take the Driver's title ahead of Verstappen and team-mate Piastri

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Raj cops arrest filmmaker Vikram Bhatt in cheating case P.8

Business P.10

'20–30% of global developers working on Web3 are Indians'

Sports

Hockey: Ruthless Germany hammer India P.13

State

'IPL matches to continue at Chinnaswamy' P.4

Quickly

Prasad wins KSCA president's post

Team Game Changers, led by Venkatesh Prasad, won the majority of the 16 seats in the Karnataka State Cricket Association Managing Committee polls, which were held on Sunday. Prasad, who contested for the president's post, defeated his rival K N Shanth Kumar from Team Brijesh Patel by a margin of 191 votes. The Prasad-led team also secured three other office-bearer posts.

Details on Page 14

Hyd road to be named after Trump

The Telangana government has decided to name a road in Hyderabad after US President Donald Trump. The high-profile road along the US Consulate General building in Hyderabad's Financial District of Nanakramguda is set to be called "Donald Trump Avenue". Sources said the government would write to the Ministry of External Affairs and the US Embassy informing them about the plan.

Details on Page 8

Mandhana, Palash call off wedding

India batter Smriti Mandhana on Sunday announced that her wedding had been called off and urged fans to stop the speculation, while music composer Palash Muchhal confirmed that he had "decided to move on". Muchhal also warned of legal action against those spreading defamatory rumours. Mandhana, one of India's prominent women cricketers, issued her statement on social media.

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25 dead as blaze guts Goa nightclub

Firecrackers said to be reason behind club horror; 5 tourists among dead

PANAJI, PTI

A burned-out interior of the Birch nightclub in North Goa on Sunday. AFP

A nightclub teeming with revellers in North Goa turned into a death trap in the early hours of Sunday as a massive fire tore through it, claiming 25 lives, including five tourists, and bringing to the fore illegalities along with the laxity of government officials in enforcing rules.

Fireworks emerged as the likely cause of the blaze at 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub at Arpora, 25 km from Panaji, officials said, adding that the facility allegedly did not possess even a fire department NOC.

At least six people were injured in the incident. Five of them are undergoing treatment at hospitals. The deceased included 20 employees of the nightclub and five tourists, including four from Delhi.

As per initial information, the nightclub had not adhered to fire safety norms, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.

Sawant said four staff members of the nightclub were arrested following the tragedy. Three senior officials of the Goa government have been suspended. They are being held responsible for giving permission to the nightclub.

Club owners Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra, against whom an FIR has been registered, would soon be arrested, said the CM.

Most of the deaths were caused by suffocation, as the victims, many of them employees, got trapped on the ground floor of the nightclub at Arpora, 25 km from Panaji, a fire official said.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that "electric firecrackers" were set off inside, which started the blaze at 11.45 pm on Saturday, Sawant said, adding that he had directed Chief Secretary V Candavelou and DGP Alok Kumar to identify and act against the government officials who allowed the club to operate even though it violated safety rules.

The government also formed a probe panel.

▸ Goa, Page 5
▸ Related reports, Page 8

MIDNIGHT TRAGEDY

At least 100 people were on dance floor of Birch by Romeo Lane when "electric firecrackers" reportedly set off

- As fire erupted, some ran downstairs to kitchen and got trapped with staff; most of deaths caused by suffocation
- Fire brigade vehicles couldn't get to the club because of narrow lanes and tankers had to be parked about 400 metres away
- Deceased include five tourists and 20 staff members; six people were injured; five of them in hospital

We will take action against the club management and also against the officials who allowed it to operate despite flouting safety norms. This is an unfortunate incident during the peak tourist season

PRAMOD SAWANT, Goa Chief Minister

- FIR against club owners Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra; 4 staffers arrested; magisterial inquiry ordered
- A village official claimed structure was illegal; a Congress leader alleged club didn't possess NOC from fire dept

B'luru reports 41% fall in cybercrime cases

Cops cite awareness, enforcement; small cases ignored

DH SPECIAL

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cybercrimes in Bengaluru (under IT Act)

Year	Cases*	Cases for the year	Per centage change
2025	8,927	-	40.81% decrease
2024	15,084	17,693	0.022% decrease#
2023	14,324	17,697	78.03% increase#

*Till Oct #Year-to-year Source: State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB)

For the first time in two years, Bengaluru has reported a steep drop in cybercrime cases in what police believe is the start of a sustained trend, according to data reviewed by *DH*.

Cases dropped to 8,927 in the first 10 months of this year, from 15,084 in the corresponding period of 2024, registering a fall of 41%. The drop is 38% when compared to the corresponding data of 2023 when 14,324 cases were registered in the first 10 months.

Senior police officers attribute the decline to rising public awareness and stronger enforcement but some also believe that the police are registering fewer FIRs.

Karnataka continues to top the country in cybercrimes, with Bengaluru reporting more cases than any other city.

Bengaluru residents lost a staggering Rs 1,261 crore to online frauds in the first eight months of this year.

According to a senior police officer, the modus operandi of cybercriminals has changed: most cases now involve investment frauds, online part-time job frauds and digital arrests.

"Earlier, losses were spread across many cases. Now, each case sees significant amounts being lost," the officer noted.

He added that both the Union and the state governments had increased awareness and crackdowns last year. "The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has implemented several measures and integrated AI to remove fraudulent, international, spam and spoofing calls. KYC norms have been tightened. Fraudulent SIM cards are being blocked on a large scale," the officer stated.

Banks are now proactively flagging suspicious transactions. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is conducting constant follow-ups.

▸ Cybercrimes, Page 5

Rs 1k-cr B'luru debris deal for single agency

BENGALURU, DHNS: For the first time, Karnataka has given a private player a Rs 1,052-crore contract to collect and transport Bengaluru's construction debris, an ambitious attempt to tackle a problem that clogs drains, blocks footpaths and fuels the city's dust pollution.

While the proposal sounds promising on paper, it has raised doubts whether a single agency can shoulder the city's entire load of debris. City-based Chaitra Civil Ventures LLP has received administrative approval to transport 1,750 metric tonnes of C&D waste per day to processing plants for 15 years.

Details on Page 2

IndiGo ops may stabilise by Dec 10; 650 Sunday flights cancelled

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI

IndiGo staffer speaks to a passenger at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

Pilloried and under intense scrutiny over its functioning, IndiGo on Sunday said it was on track to operate over 1,650 flights during the day and that it intends to stabilise the network that has been thrown into disarray by December 10.

On Sunday, the airline cancelled over 650 flights. Amid the crisis, DGCA gave more time to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and the Accountable Manager Isidro Porqueras to submit their responses to the show causes notices seeking their explanations on the flight disruptions. Both have been granted 24 hours more or time till 6 pm on Monday to submit their replies.

With its Board of Directors facing criticism, the airline said a Crisis Management Group headed by Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta was set up to monitor the situation.

An open letter claimed to be written by an unnamed employee criticising IndiGo is also doing the rounds of social media. In a statement, the airline claimed that its on time performance has risen to 75%, up from 30% on Saturday. "Our teams are working relentlessly to stabilise operations," it said.

▸ IndiGo, Page 5
Airline refunds Rs 610 crore, Page 8

Parl panel to get into action

A parliamentary panel is likely to summon senior officials of domestic airlines and the DGCA following the IndiGo fiasco to ascertain how the situation spiralled into a crisis.

Details on Page 8

Belagavi session to get going amid Cong tussle; hate speech bill to be tabled

BENGALURU, DHNS: Political developments, discussion on key bills, including one against hate speech, farmers' problems and North Karnataka-related issues are expected to dominate the 10-day-long Winter Session of the legislature that starts in Belagavi on Monday.

The session comes amid the power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar. Despite the two breakfast meetings between the duo to bridge their differences, tensions persist within the party. The internal chemistry of the Congress will be closely watched and the Opposition NDA will be keen to pounce on the ruling camp in the event of any disharmony.

The NDA is said to be considering a no confidence motion. However, with the Congress enjoying a comfortable majority, those bids are not expected to be critical.

Details on Page 3

Stationery being unloaded at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha. DH PHOTO/EKNATH AGASIMANI

6,000 cops on security duty

As many as 10,000 personnel, including 6,000 police officials, have been deployed at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha. Most of the personnel landed in Belagavi on Saturday and Sunday.

'Siddu backs Parameshwara for CM job if party demands change'

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the ongoing power tussle in the ruling Congress in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is learnt to have communicated to the top brass his willingness to abide by any decision of the high command to resolve the festering leadership issue.

Siddaramaiah

Sources told *DH* that Siddaramaiah, who held elaborate meetings with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, followed by his interaction with party general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal on Thursday at Mangaluru, reiterated that he has no desire to cling to power. If the party decides to usher in a new leadership, the Kuruba leader is learnt to have backed the candidature of Home Minister G Parameshwara, a Dalit.

At a meeting on Saturday in Delhi, the top Congress leadership, including former parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, got a detailed briefing on the Karnataka situation, including the feedback from key players.

Even during the luncheon meeting last week with his deputy D K Shivakumar — held at the behest of the high command — Siddaramaiah reportedly told the Vokkaliga leader that he was ready to follow Rahul Gandhi's instructions of leadership change.

"Even a phone call from Rahul would be enough," the CM is said to have remarked.

In recent days, Siddaramaiah has held a series of meetings with his close confidants, including Parameshwara, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa and former minister K N Rajanna.

▸ Siddu, Page 5

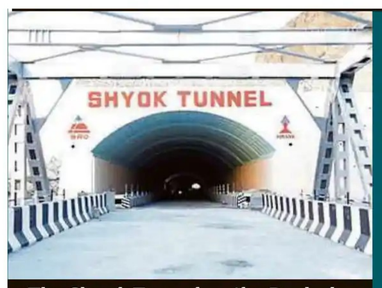
RAMPING UP

India rolls out record border infra to counter threats

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday inaugurated 125 Border Roads Organisation (BRO) projects from eastern Ladakh — India's largest single-day border infrastructure rollout — as India ramps up its defence preparedness to meet the challenge posed by China and Pakistan.

The centrepiece of this push is the Shyok Tunnel, a 920-metre, cut-and-cover structure at over 12,000 feet on the Darbuk–Shyok–Daulat Beg Oldie (DS-DBO) Road, a corridor whose strategic value has surged since the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes.



The Shyok Tunnel on the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road. PIB

High-altitude thrust

- 125 projects inaugurated include 28 roads, 93 bridges spread across two UTs—Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir—and seven states
- Valued at around 5,000 crore, this is the highest annual addition to BRO's project portfolio in its history
- Highlight of this push is the Shyok Tunnel, a 920-metre, cut-and-cover structure at over 12,000 feet on the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road

The tunnel, described by Rajnath as "an engineering marvel built in one of the world's toughest terrains", provides all-weather connectivity to forward positions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The DS-DBO axis leads to India's northernmost military outpost at Daulat Beg Oldie, close to the LAC with China and not far from the Karakoram Pass.

BRO engineers say the tunnel will drastically reduce winter disruptions caused by snowfall and avalanches, ensuring a stable logistics chain for troops deployed in the high-friction eastern Ladakh sector.

Linking border infrastructure directly to India's counter-terror and conventional preparedness, Rajnath invoked Operation Sindoor.

"Our armed forces launched the operation in response to the horrific attack in Pahalgam. Everyone knows what befell those terrorists. We could have done much more, but our forces—showing courage and patience—did only what was necessary," he said.

▸ Border roads, Page 5

Swamala Rojana
Sehat Ka Khajana!
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Day 6 of IndiGo crisis: KIA reels under fresh cancellations, passenger plight

On Sunday alone, 61 flights of the airline were cancelled

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Anxious passengers try to get updates on their flight status at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

The operational meltdown at IndiGo Airlines entered its sixth straight day on Sunday, leaving the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in continued turmoil.

Though the number of stranded passengers has reduced since the initial days, mass cancellations are still disrupting crucial travel plans for hundreds and severely impacting travel agents.

On Sunday alone, 61 IndiGo flights were cancelled.

Even with the airline reportedly sending notifications five hours in advance, many passengers were still seen sleeping on terminal seats. The cancellations affected flights to Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mangaluru, Bhopal, Kochi, and Srinagar. Unlike the past few days, advance communication helped reduce the congestion that overwhelmed the airport earlier this week.

Caught in the crossfire

The city's travel industry continues to bear the brunt.

Shankarmurthy, a travel agent who typically handles about 500 bookings a month, said the crisis has damaged both his business and his reputation.

"In the last four days, nearly 150 of my clients were stuck in different states. It was very hard to bring them back," he said.

He recalled a Mumbai flight that was cancelled three times, leaving passengers waiting for 16 hours.

A group headed to Bhubaneswar saw their 7.20 am flight cancelled late Saturday night and have since faced repeated delays.

For elderly first-time flier Jyothi Patil, the experience was overwhelming. "Now, they say 6.30 pm. We have been waiting here for 12 hours and are afraid we may not reach our destination," she said.

A Varanasi-bound pilgrimage group said their month-long planning was in jeopardy as their flight continued to remain under "delayed status", derailing their itinerary.

Roshni, whose original flight was cancelled, rebooked a 1.30 pm flight at full fare only for it to be delayed as well. She said she was initially barred from boarding because staff did not have an updated passenger list.

Amid mounting frustration, senior Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj staged a protest near the Sadahalli toll plaza, demanding the arrest of senior IndiGo executives and a government takeover of the airline, calling the situation "worse than an emergency".

He highlighted severe personal losses, including delays for passengers travelling for medical needs or to immerse a loved one's ashes in Varanasi.

'Worst aviation meltdown'

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, in a post on X, called the IndiGo fiasco the "worst aviation meltdown in India's history," blaming it on the Centre's "monopoly model". He said the ongoing chaos at KIA, which is India's third-busiest airport, was hurting families, businesses, and the country's reputation, urging the union government to act immediately.

Vintage car rally unites all in fight against drugs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Vintage cars at the drug-free Karnataka rally, organised at the Vidhana Soudha on Sunday. DH PHOTO/MS MANJUNATH

Bengaluru's streets saw a unique collaboration between law enforcement and heritage enthusiasts on Sunday, as a vintage car rally was flagged off from the Vidhana Soudha to raise awareness about the 'War Against Drug Abuse and Peddling'.

Hosted by the Bengaluru city police and organised with the Federation of Historic Vehicles of India (FHVI), the event brought together vintage car owners, public health advocates, and community leaders in a unified drive for a drug-free Karnataka.

The rally was flagged off by Home Minister G Parameshwara and attended by MA Saleem, Karnataka DG&IGP, and other senior officials.

Parameshwara reiterated the government's commitment to making Karnataka drug-free. "Drug abuse is spreading rapidly worldwide, not just in India or Bengaluru. I don't know who promotes this; they are not human beings," he said.

He revealed that drugs worth over Rs 300 crore have been confiscated in the last two years and thousands of offenders apprehended. He urged the younger generation "not to use, promote, or encourage drugs", warning that peddlers are increasingly targeting schools by giving free samples before fostering addiction.

"We are very vigilant in the city. We will not spare anyone involved in peddling," Parameshwara added, noting that some foreign students caught in drug-related activities have been deported.

The rally, combining heritage and advocacy, traversed key city roads, including Ambedkar Veedhi, MG Road, Brigade Road and Vittal Mallya Road, culminating on Mysuru Road.

Public awareness programmes were conducted along the route, including at the MG Road metro station and RV Engineering College, to sensitise citizens, especially youth, about the devastating impact of substance abuse.

Rs 1,052-crore debris deal: BSWML bets on single agency

Officials say initiative may tackle long-neglected debris issue

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Construction debris piled along the roadside in Koramangala. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

For the first time, Karnataka has handed a private player a Rs 1,052-crore contract to collect and transport Bengaluru's construction debris, an ambitious attempt to tackle a problem that clogs drains, blocks footpaths, and fuels dust pollution across the city.

While promising on paper, the plan has raised doubts about whether a single agency can manage the city's entire debris load, which requires significant manpower and machinery.

According to a government order dated October 9, city-based Chaitra Civil Ventures LLP has received administrative approval to transport 1,750 metric tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste per day to processing plants at Kannur and Chikkajala for the next 15 years. The firm emerged as the sole bidder after the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) disqualified a competing company amid limited participation. The BSWML will pay an average of Rs 765 per tonne, amounting to roughly Rs 70 crore annually.

Approved packages

- **Kannur (750 TPD)** Rs 760.50/tonne; Contract value: **Rs 449.24 cr**
- **Chikkajala (500 TPD)** Rs 770.09/tonne; Contract value: **Rs 303.26 cr**
- **Chikkajala Second Unit (500 TPD)** Rs 760.50/tonne; Contract value: **Rs 303.26 cr**
- With **5%** annual escalation, the government's projected expenditure over 15 years is **Rs 1,052 crore**.

The BSWML had floated seven tenders to handle the city's C&D waste under the Waste Management Rules, 2016. In six packages, Chaitra Civil Ventures LLP was the lone bidder, even though debris transport does not require specialised expertise, unlike debris processing.

About four months later, the state cabinet cleared three tenders — totalling 1,750 tonnes per day — and the order was issued in October. The remaining three tenders, which include debris processing, have been put on hold.

In May, *DH* had reported on the proposal under the headline, *'One firm, five contracts in Bengaluru: Questions over Rs 2.2K-crore waste deal'.*

Some officials said the initiative could finally address the long-neglected issue of debris disposal.

"We were clearing debris on an ad hoc basis. The new system has been created to ensure continuity, free up public spaces, improve aesthetics, and curb pollution," one official said, confirming that the government has cleared three tenders, but the BSWML has not yet issued the work order.

Penalty push

A solid waste management expert suggested that the BSWML should have empanelled multiple private operators owning tractors and tippers, with fees for transport fixed based on the distance covered.

He added that the BSWML should strengthen enforcement, imposing heavy penalties on waste producers and illegal dumping.

GBA begins asphalting 5-km stretch of Sarjapur Road to ease traffic

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has begun asphalting a five-kilometre stretch of Sarjapur Road between Iblur and the Carmelaram railway overbridge.

Sarjapur Road, a busy arterial route that once primarily served as a link between the tech corridor and residential areas, is now rapidly evolving into a tech hub itself.

According to the Mahadevapura Task Force, the stretch currently carries nearly three times the traffic volume it was originally designed for, with loads spiking further during peak hours.

"With new residential pockets coming up in gram panchayat areas such as Kodathi, traffic is expected to increase even more," said task force member Clement Jayakumar.

To ease future congestion, the task force has suggested that IT companies or the Outer Ring Road Companies' Association (ORRCA) consider building an 8-km skywalk beneath the proposed elevated metro line (Phase 3A), enabling residents to walk to their workplaces.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **M/s. Gokaldas Warehousing Corporation,** a Registered Partnership Firm, having its registered office at 2nd Floor, Gokaldas Chambers, No.222/14, 5th Main Road, Sadashivanagar, Bellary Road, Bengaluru 560 080.

The said Partnership Firm represents my client, that M/s.Gokaldas Warehousing Corporation has acquired the Schedule Property under various registered sale deeds and also obtained registration of E-Khatas from the jurisdictional Village Panchayath and is paying taxes to the Panchayath regularly. The persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the properties morefully described in the schedule to this public notice, may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence **within Fifteen days** from the date of publication of this public notice. The objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE

Commercially converted lands bearing Sy.Nos.68/1, 68/2, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, (123/1, 123/2), 127 and 133, situated at the North-Eastern corner of the Bheemakkanahalli village lands, which originally bears V.P.katha No. 165, now assigned as RDPR E-katha No.150300400200120079, situated at Bheemakkanahalli village, Sulibele Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, in all measuring 66620.45 Sq.Mtrs., (Sixty Six thousand Six Hundred Twenty point Four five Square meters) (including all such areas relinquished for road widening and other purposes) consisting of two standing P.E.B structures in all measuring 30406.75 Sq.Mtrs., (Thirty Thousand Four Hundred and Six point Seven Five) and bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.73 and Ankonahalli village boundary, **West by:** Hosakote-Sulibele Main Road, **North by:** Sy.No.73 and Gundarahalli village boundary and **South by:** Lands bearing Sy. No.69 and other survey numbers of Bheemakkanahalli Village.

SRI. K.T. NANJUNDA GOWDA, SRI. SANTHOSH KUMAR .G, SRI. B.L. SANJAY, Advocates
No.26/2, Sri Krishna Building, Avenue Road, Bengaluru-560 002.
Mob: 9741126464. Date: 06-12-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from M/s.Shanthinikethan Homes, a Registered Partnership Firm, having its Registered office at C/o Construction Consultants, No.103, 3rd Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560 044, represented by its partners Sri. Dayanidhi. B.R & Smt.Meghana Srinivas. The said Partnership Firm represents my client, that M/s.Shanthinikethan Homes is the owner in possession of the Schedule Property. The persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the property morefully described in the schedule to this public notice, may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen days from the date of publication of this public notice. The objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property, as if there are no claims/objections.

: **SCHEDULE** :

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.14/3, now bearing C.M.C.Khata No.2880473441, old plot No.3, formed in the land bearing Sy.Nos.264, 266 and 284 of Bommasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, that is Bommasandra 2nd Phase (Housing Layout), Bengaluru measuring on the Eastern side 55 Mtrs., on the Western side 24.50 Mtrs., Northern side 96 Mtrs., and on the Southern side 93.50 Mtrs., totally measuring 3603 Sq.Mtrs., now within the limits of Bommasandra C.M.C, together with five floor R.C.C roofed building and bounded on the East by : Road, West by : Road, North by : Road and South by : Road.

Sri. K.T.NANJUNDA GOWDA, Sri. SANTHOSH KUMAR.G Sri. B.L.SANJAY, Advocates
No.26/2, Sri Krishna Building, Avenue Road, Bengaluru – 560 002. Mob : 9741126464
Place: Bangalore Date: 06/12/2025

RAINBOW REVOLUTION

Streets come alive as queer community marches in Pride

VENKATESH R
BENGALURU, DHNS

LGBTQIA+ community members and supporters take part in the 'Namma Pride Walk' in Bengaluru on Sunday, marching from Sree Kanteerava Stadium to Samsa Bayalu Ranga Mandira. DH PHOTO

By 2.30 pm on Sunday, the road outside the Sree Kanteerava Stadium had transformed into a burst of colour and sound as thousands gathered for the annual Pride Walk.

What began as a slow, sunlit crowd quickly became a vibrant stream of students with hand-painted placards, trans women in shimmering sarees, drag performers adjusting their wings, corporate groups in rainbow bandanas, and older queer residents walking with quiet confidence.

The dhols kicked off the march, their sharp rhythms setting the pace as chants rose: "We are here! We are queer!", "Namma Pride, Namma Hakku", and "Humein chahiye azaadi!" A Dalit queer collective waved blue flags and shouted "Jai Bhim", adding to the growing chorus.

The crowd reflected the full breadth of the community — trans elders, students, migrant workers, corporate queer groups, and volunteers ensuring no one felt lost or overheated.

For Charan, a 19-year-old attending his first Pride, the day offered rare visibility. Holding a placard that read 'Let Us Live', he said, "I just want to exist without someone having an opinion about it."

Drag performer Prisha Flame, in black horns and iridescent wings, drew constant cheers. "Villain or hero — today the street is ours," she said. Nearby, Leah Martinez, visiting from Spain, called the event "one of the most emotionally charged Prides I've ever seen... celebration and resistance at the same time."

Orderly crowd

Despite the large turnout, the march remained orderly.

A senior police officer said organisers "set a model for how events should be run", with minimal traffic disruption.

At Samsa Bayalu Ranga Mandira, the mood softened as Hemmeya Sanje (Proud Evening) opened with folk music, poetry, and dance.

Watching from the stands, 52-year-old Mahesh Shenoy reflected, "We were barely 50 people once. Now look at this city. It's changing."

KSRTC bags award

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) received the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund Award for topping state government departments/agencies in contributions.

The bus operator won the honour for the 11th time in a row.

Home Minister G Parameshwara presented the award to Nandihinidevi K, Director (Personnel and Vigilance), KSRTC, at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday, according to a news release.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Central Government, Telecom and Information Technology Employees Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560052, have purchased the below mentioned properties through registered sale deeds, by paying the members' funds to Ashok A., M/s. Benaka Enterprises, Developer. The details of the purchased lands are as follows: Properties situated at Avathi Village Bengaluru Rural District, Devanahalli Taluk Survey Nos.:123, 122, 104, 105, 106/2, 106/3, 106/4, 106/5, 127/2, 131/1, 131/2, 131/3, 131/4, 131/5, 124, 125/2, 135/2, 135/3, 137/3, 103, 130/1, 130/2, 125/1, 125/4 Properties situated at Gobbaragunte VillageSurvey Nos.:70/P2, 68/5, 81, 128 (Old Sy. No. 70/P3), 70/P1, 86/2 (Old Sy. No. 86/1), 129 (Old Sy. No. 70/P6), 130 (Old Sy. No. 70/P7), 68/9, 68/10, 74/10, 69/7 (Old Sy. No. 69), 66/2, 65/P2, 69/3 (Old Sy. No. 69), 69/6 (Old Sy. No. 69), 68/6, 69/2, 87/2, 88/2 (Old No. 88), 88/1 (Old No. 88), 82/2, 68/7, 72/6 (Old No. 72/3), 74/14 (Old No. 74/6), 74/7, 74/15 (Old No. 74/7), 68/12 (Old Sy. No. 68/69), 73/1, 68/11, 70/P9, 74/12, 68/4, 69/8, 74/11, 92/1, 92/2, 92/3, 91, 93/1, 93/3, 94/2, 90/1, 72/1 (Old No. 72/2), 69/5, 69/17,Sy. No. 127 – 1 Acre, Sy. No. 127 – 10 Guntas, Sy. No. 127 – 15 Guntas,Sy. No. 127 – 15 Guntas,68/2, 120, 68/1, 73/2, 73/3A (Old No. 73/3), 73/4.My client are the absolute owners of the above said properties and are in lawful possession and enjoyment of the scheduled properties. Therefore, any person/persons/organizations are hereby cautioned not to enter into any financial transactions or dealings with respect to the above mentioned properties. If anyone violates this notice or attempts any such transactions, my client, Central Government, Telecom and Information Technology Employees Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560052, shall not be responsible for any claims or consequences. Further, it is hereby notified that my client shall not be responsible for any kind of rights, claims or objections relating to the above scheduled properties.

Address : Manjunath N., Advocate C.G.T.I.T., Vasanthanagar Bengaluru Mobile: 8884365159

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 07-12-2025

Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.

Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column. The write-ups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @ deccanherald.co.in

Open drain poses risk to passersby

I am a resident of 3rd Cross, Nanjappa Layout in Vidyaranyapura. An open drain in Ward No 10/11 has been left unattended, posing a serious risk to children who play nearby as well as to pedestrians.

Despite raising multiple complaints through the GBA 'Sahaaya' application,

I have yet to receive any response. I urge the authorities to repair and cover this drain at the earliest to prevent accidents.

Location: No 13/3, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Nanjappa Layout, Vidyaranyapura.

Guruprakash RK
Vidyaranyapura

Craters on footpath

While the city grapples with potholes on roads, residents of Malleswaram are facing another hazard: craters on footpaths. One such crater on 5th Cross, Malleswaram, poses a risk to pedestrians, including children and the elderly. I urge the authorities to address this issue promptly before it leads to accidents or fatalities.

Sudhir S Mysore
Malleswaram

Scant regard for traffic rules on South End Road

Trucks loaded with construction materials are being haphazardly parked in two or even three lines, obstructing traffic just opposite the Shell petrol bunk on South End Road, Jayanagar, barely 200 metres from the DCP's office.

These trucks are virtually turning public roads into dumping yards. Despite complaints from the petrol bunk, enforcement is sporadic, and occasional fines do little to curb the menace.

The blatant disregard for parking rules and the inefficiency of the authorities in enforcing them is alarming.

Haphazardly parked trucks are turning public roads into dumping yards.

Nagaraja Manya
South End Road, Jayanagar

Ruling Cong, Oppn NDA brace for winter session in Belagavi from today

Political devpts, key bills, N-K issues may be discussed

The illuminated Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on the eve of the winter session of the legislature in Belagavi on Sunday.

BENGALURU, DHNS

Political developments, discussion on key bills, farmers' problems and North Karnataka-related issues are expected to dominate the 10-day-long Winter Session of the legislature that starts in Belagavi on Monday.

The session comes alongside the ongoing power tussle within the Congress between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

Despite the two breakfast meetings between the duo to bridge the differences, tensions persist within the party.

The internal chemistry within the Congress will be carefully watched and the Opposition NDA will be keen to pounce on the ruling Congress in the event of any disharmony.

The NDA is also said to be considering passing a no-confidence motion. However, with the Congress enjoying a comfortable majority (142 MLAs against 82 for NDA), those attempts are not expected to be critical.

Key bills

Despite the dominance in the Assembly, the ruling Congress had thus far fewer members in the Council than NDA, which had allowed the Opposition to defeat a few bills in the Council.

The Winter Session will be the first since the Congress came to power, where the ruling party will have equal number of members in the Council as NDA, thanks to the addition of four new members: Ramesh Babu, Aarathi Krishna, K Shivakumar and F H Jakkappanavar.

In the 75-member Council, there are 37 Congress members, 37 NDA members and one independent Lakhan Jarkiholi, who is believed to be closer to Congress.

This is expected to help the Congress move ahead with sensitive bills like the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Prevention Bill, which the NDA could strongly oppose.

If its strategy succeeds, the Congress may also introduce other contentious bills such as the Karnataka Misinformation Regulation Bill, Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act (Anti-conversion Act) and so on in subsequent sessions.

Other bills such as Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025, Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill, Karnataka Hindu Religious Institution and Endowment (Amendment) Bill, Bayaluseeme Area Development Board (Amendment) Bill and so on are also expected to be tabled in the current session.

Speaking to *DH* about the Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Prevention Bill, senior Congressman and MLC B K Hariprasad said: "This is an apt bill and has been brought at the right time. When some persons have resorted to abuses, such things need to be stopped. In a place like Dakshina Kannada, nobody can take law into their own hands".

North Karnataka issues

Over the years, the norm has been to prioritise North Karnataka-related issues during the Winter Session. This time, discussions are expected to revolve around the North Karnataka floods, issues of maize and sugarcane growers and promises made by the Congress government regarding North Karnataka.

The NDA is expected to insist on having a longer session to discuss North Karnataka-related issues in greater detail.

6,000 cops deputed for security at Suvarna Vidhana Soudhna

BELAGAVI, DHNS: As many as 10,000 personnel, including 6,000 policemen, have been deployed at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha where the 14th winter session of the Legislative Assembly will begin on Monday.

Most of the personnel landed in Belagavi on Saturday and Sunday. They have been assigned duties also. The services of over 500 labourers are being used for maintenance of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, cleaning and serving food.

As many as 3,000 rooms have been reserved for accommodation. Government quarters, guesthouses, rooms at universities, vacant government buildings, lodges, marriage halls and appropriate apartments have been obtained on rent for 12 days.

Suvarna Vidhana Soudha is situated at a distance of 12 km from Belagavi city. Over 500 vehicles have been hired for the travel of officers and other employees from their place of accomodation. Seventy per cent of such vehicles are hired from private parties. Two helipads - one on the premises of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha and another at Kumaraswamy Layout have been readied for the movement of ministers and MLAs.

BDCC polls: Cong-backed candidates win 15 of 18 seats

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Co-operative Milk Producers Societies Union (Bamul) President and former MP DK Suresh said on Sunday that Congress-backed candidates had won 15 of the 18 in the Bengaluru District Central Co-operative Bank (BDCC) elections.

Addressing reporters during a news conference, Suresh, brother of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, said, "In today's bank elections, Congress-backed candidates have won 15 of the 18 seats. In Bengaluru South district, seven Congress-backed candidates won - 2 each in Ramanagara, Kanakapura and Magadi while one candidate backed by the Congress won in Channapatna. Somashekhar (Yeshwantpur MLA) has joined hands with us and we won in his constituency too.

Congress-backed candidates also won 2 seats in Hosakote, one each in Devanahalli, Doddaballapura and Anekal and bagged another seat thanks to the support of (Congress leader) H M Revanna."

Suresh pointed out that BJP-backed candidates had won one seat in Nelamangala and 2 seats in Solur.

He credited Shivakumar, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and MLAs Shivanna, Sharath Bache Gowda, Iqbal Hussain, H C Balakrishna, C P Yogeshwar, N Srinivas and others for the victory.

No prisoner of any idea, lit fest embodied spirit of venue: Freedom Park

Talks on female writers, poetry & language dominate sessions

Youngsters strike a pose at the Bangalore Literature Festival, which concluded on Sunday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Literature Festival 2025 drew to a close Sunday with discussions revolving around female writers, poetry, art, language and travel.

Over 50 sessions and panel discussions were held across two days.

For the first time, the festival was held at Freedom Park, a venue earlier confined to hosting protests and much earlier than that, the city's central prison.

On the choice of venue, V Ravichandar, part of the organising team, said: "Our primary aim was to conduct a public event in a public place and by doing so, making Freedom Park a more prominent public space. Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) helped get the place ready in time".

The GBA was instrumental in fixing toilets, old barracks, amphitheatre and other spaces where the sessions were held, he said.

The nearby multi-level parking facility and the proximity to the metro station made the venue more convenient, he added.

"The park is huge and if we decide to scale up the festival in the coming years, we will have the space to do so. Additionally, the choice is cost effective as compared to previous venues," said Ravichandar.

Among the many who appreciated the choice of venue for its easy accessibility and sprawling space was Kannada author Vasudhendra. "It is also interesting that a former jail has now hosted a literature festival," he said.

Cancelled flights up budget

As IndiGo flights continue to be cancelled, the festival team was forced to come up with solutions. "Out of 285 speakers, 20-22 could not make it. For others, we made alternative arrangements and it scaled up our travel budget by over 25%," said Ravichandar.

Film buffs were disappointed by the cancellation of a session titled 'English Vinglish: Mother Tongue, Other Tongue' featuring noted film director Gauri Shinde.

Some had extended their visit to Bengaluru to catch the session.

Shreya K P, a communications professional from Delhi, said, "I extended my stay because I wanted to attend a few sessions, many of which got cancelled, including Gauri's. The session would have been relevant at a time when language discussions and Hindi imposition are hot topics. The film is about an Indian homemaker who feels disrespected in her own household for not being able to speak English".

Womanhood, female voices & revolt

At 'Just Like a Woman', novelists Gayathri Prabhu and Anita Nair discussed respective works — 'A Genre of Her Own: Life Narratives and Feminist Literary Beginnings in Modern India' and 'Why I Killed My Husband' — were discussed. It was moderated by journalist Diaa Hadid.

Gayathri, a literary studies professor in Delhi, said she often wondered, "Who are my literary foremothers?" Her book, divided into three clusters, featuring Marathi, Bengali and Anglophone voices.

About Anita's short story, Diaa called it "a fun read", and asked about its origins. Anita replied that the story involved extensive research.

Another women-oriented Kannada session 'Hosa Baraha' — featuring Kannada women writers Bhagyajyoti Hiremath, Fathima Raliya, Sudha Adukala and Jayashree Kasaravalli — discussed the rise of women writers in Kannada and articulated the challenges they faced.

The session titled 'The Ghadar Movement: A Forgotten Struggle' discussed the struggles of Punjabis' return to India in the 20th century after Canada closed its doors and the Ghadar movement was discussed by author Rana Preet Gill with Karthik Venkatesh.

Discussion on North vs South cinema leaves out Kannada, Tamil films

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

At the lit fest on Sunday, a session titled 'Yenna rascala vs kitne aadmi they: The north and south of cinema' saw author and screenwriter Anand Neelakantan moderating a conversation between Anna M M Vetticad, journalist and film critic, and Archana Vasudev, film writer.

The guests discussed Hindi versus South Indian cinema. Vetticad said Bollywood's downfall lies in their false pride that they are the only source of entertainment for the entire nation.

"Bollywood has had too much privilege for too long. All other film industries are called regional cinema, which gives the impression that Hindi cinema is national cinema. This comes from the misconception that Hindi is the only national language," said Vetticad.

> **RAMYA HARIKUMAR**
> Drama teacher
>
> "Recently, Kannada movies, like 'KGF' and 'Kantara', have done well at the box office. And it is Bangalore Literature Festival, after all. I feel all industries should have been given equal attention.

Archana highlighted stereotyping and misrepresentation of south Indians in Hindi films. "Because of it, north Indians think everyone from Kerala can climb coconut trees. But that's wrong."

The panelists said other Indian language film industries are not without flaws. Patriarchy and misogyny are everywhere but, with Malayalam movies, the quality of content leads people to believe the industry is flawless. While the discussion was widely enjoyed, many shared their disappointment.

"The title is South vs North cinema, but it only covered Malayalam cinema & Bollywood. There was just a brief mention of Telugu director S S Rajamouli and that too because of 'Bahubali'," said Aravind Krishnan, movie enthusiast. A few others said the lack in variety of panelists made the session one-sided.

Govt raises maize procurement cap to 50 quintals per farmer

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a much-needed relief to the crisis-ridden maize farmers, the state government on Sunday revised its maize procurement order, raising the cap that can be purchased from each farmer under the support price scheme.

In a fresh government order, the procurement cap was increased from 20 quintals per farmer to 50 quintals.

"Based on the extent of land held by farmers as recorded in the FRUITS software, up to 50 quintals of maize per farmer shall be purchased at the support price of Rs 2,400 per quintal, calculated at 12 quintals per acre. Priority shall be given to procurement through PACS located near distilleries," the statement said.

According to the order, purchases will be prioritised through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) near distilleries. The revision follows after maize growers recently staged protests against the alleged "unfair treatment." by the government.

'The light will never go out': Gandhi's grandson

Recalls Rajaji's words: 'Elections & their corruption will make life hell for us'

Mahatma's grandson Gopalkrishna Gandhi (R) with novelist Keshava Guha.

TINI SARA ANIEN
BENGALURU, DHNS

At the Bangalore Literature Festival on Sunday, writer and diplomat Gopalkrishna Gandhi joined novelist Keshava Guha for a reflective conversation on the "light" that still guides the country. The discussion was based on Gandhi's new book, titled 'The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India'.

Speaking about the title, Gandhi said he had Jawaharlal Nehru's words on the night of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination in mind when he chose it. "Nehru said the light had gone out of our lives," he recalled, while several camera lights were on his face. "But I feel the light will never go out."

Guha described the book as a record of India's "first republic," while saying "we are currently living in the "second republic," with continuity in the nation's population and culture".

Discussing the different personalities mentioned in Gandhi's book, Guha brought the focus to Gandhi's "other" grandfather, C Rajagopalachari, and asked him about his influence.

While Gandhi wittily said that "this book is not about the jis" (referring to Panditji, Gandhiji and Rajaji), he acknowledged that Rajaji was crucial to the book and "the founding years of our republic". He said Rajaji bore no resentment or bitterness "towards the early regime" and appreciated the administrative structures India inherited.

Gandhi also recalled his maternal grandfather's warning about future elections, saying, "Elections and their corruption will make life hell for us".

Rajaji had added that a time may come when Indians might look back at the British Raj as an era "where good officers gave us good governance and were largely free of corruption".

When asked about joining the civil service despite his lineage, Gandhi resisted making the conversation "too personal," yet said that young people should take the exam.

Gandhi also spoke at length about Jayaprakash Narayan (JP), calling him "one of the few who kept an independent intellect," despite his admiration for the Mahatma and Nehru.

Politics, Indian presidents

On not contesting elections, Gandhi joked that he was a "wimp". However, he had worked closely with former presidents.

On Guha's question about what the country's president's role should be, Gandhi recalled former president K R Narayanan's response in an interview, that "the president has no authority but immense influence, and that the influence must accord with public opinion when it is right".

He also reflected on former president A P J Abdul Kalam's enduring popularity. He added that he did "not know why and how," but something about Kalam touched Indian hearts.

The session ended with questions on the presidency and concluded with Gandhi pointing out that the country should be "open to criticism and have critics who are open to self-criticism".

Visitors purchase books at Bangalore Literature Festival in the city on Sunday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

EVs: Battery reusability plus point, but carbon emissions a worry

SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS:

In a session on climate change, environment and science, author Nagesh Hegde made some observations that could make the public rethink the environmental implications of electric vehicles.

"While reusability is beneficial, carbon emissions from lithium battery production outweigh those from diesel or petrol vehicles," he noted.

The session was titled 'Navu-Neevu mathu tapamaana - Me and you and climate change' and featured Hegde in conversation with Kannada author Gururaj S Davangere.

Addressing the heavy investments in electric vehicles, he pointed out that if all the solar panels produced globally were stacked, they would reach the moon.

The discussion began with the topic of Bengaluru's worsening Air Quality Index. At a value of 130, it is poor, Hegde noted. He compared it to an earlier article, which indicated that the city's air is the cleanest among major Indian cities.

In his arguments, Hegde advocated for eco-friendly urban development that integrates nature restoration. Highlighting the Great Green Wall initiative — a vast project aimed at combating desertification in Africa — he suggested applying similar principles in Karnataka to address local challenges and promote climate restoration.

Bengaluru's water crisis can be solved by turning the city into a "sponge city," similar to Wuhan, China, because of its abundant lakes, Hegde said.

Bharati Vidyapeeth
(Deemed to be University), Pune (India)
Founder Chancellor : Dr. Patangrao Kadam
Bharati Vidyapeeth Bhavan, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Pune 411 030
Phone No. 020-24325701, 24407100, 24407199
Accredited (4th cycle) with "A++" Grade by NAAC
Category I University Status by UGC, NIRF RANKING 59
"A" Grade University Status by MHRD, Govt. of India

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Interviews for the posts of **Principal, Professors, Associate Professors** and **Assistant Professors** to be filled in **Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) School of Physiotherapy, Pune, Sangli** and **Proposed School of Physiotherapy, Navi Mumbai** will be conducted on **Wednesday, 10th December, 2025 from 12.00 noon** onwards at **Bharati Vidyapeeth, 8th floor, Bharati Vidyapeeth Bhavan, L.B.S. Marg, Pune - 411 030.**

1. **Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) School of Physiotherapy at Pune and Sangli**

Sr. No.	Subject Speciality	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1.	Master of Physiotherapy in Musculoskeletal Science	01 Pune	-	01 Pune
2	Master of Physiotherapy in Neuroscience	01 Pune	02 01 Pune 01 Sangli	-
3	Master of Physiotherapy in Cardio – Pulmonary Science	02 01 Pune 01 Sangli	01 Sangli	01 Sangli
4	Master of Physiotherapy in Community Based Rehabilitation	01 Sangli	01 Pune	01 Sangli
5	Master of Physiotherapy in Sports Science	01 Sangli	01 Pune	03 01 Pune 02 Sangli
6	Master of Physiotherapy in Paediatric Neonatal Sciences	01 Sangli	02 01 Pune 01 Sangli	04 02 Pune 02 Sangli
7	Master of Physiotherapy in Obstetrics & Gynaecology Sci.	02 01 Pune 01 Sangli	02 01 Pune 01 Sangli	04 02 Pune 02 Sangli
8	Master of Physiotherapy in Oncology Science	01 Pune	01 Pune	02 Pune

2. **Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Proposed School of Physiotherapy at Sector 7, CBD, Navi Mumbai**

Sr. No.	Subject Speciality	Principal	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
	Any Speciality	01	-	-
1	Electrotherapy & Electro Diagnosis	-	01	02
2	Kinesiotherapy & Physical Diagnosis	-	01	02

Competent, qualified and passionate candidates may appear for a walk in interview on date, time and venue mentioned above along with Biodata stating qualifications, experience, specialised research etc. with supporting documents in original form and one set of xerox copies.

For detailed information about posts, qualifications, experience for above posts please visit Bharati Vidyapeeth's website

bvp.bharatividyapeeth.edu /index.php/careers

Secretary,
Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune-30

Steps 101225

PUBLIC NOTICE - E-AUCTION
RELIABLE CASHEW COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION (RCCPL)
under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

E-AUCTION
Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Dates E-Auction: 01.01.2026 and 02.01.2026

Pursuant to the Order of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai vide its order dated 09.08.2024 in the matter of Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited (In Liquidation), the undersigned is inviting bids for sale of assets of RCCPL as a going concern sale and/or sale of the assets owned by RCCPL forming part of the liquidation estate under section 35(f) of IBC, 2016 read with Regulation 32(e) and Regulation 32A of IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016. The said Assets will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS ", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS".**

The Sale will be done by the undersigned through the E-Auction platform at the web portal https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home Brief particulars of the sale are as follows:

Set of Assets	Assets	Reserve Price (In INR)	EMD Amount (In INR)
Category A-Sale of Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern Date and Time of e-auction: 01.01.2026 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon			
Asset Set 1	Sale of Corporate Debtor as going Concern including non-core assets (under Regulation 32(e) read with Regulation 32A) of Liquidation Process Regulations Specific exclusion: I. Cash and cash equivalents, other bank balances ii. Proceeds from ongoing litigations	**9.780 Crores**	**0.978 Crores**
Category B -Sale of Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A) Date and Time of e-auction: 01.01.2026 at 01.00 PM to 02.00 PM			
Asset Set 2	Sale of Corporate Debtor as going concern excluding non-core assets (under Regulation 32(e) read with Regulation 32A) of Liquidation Process Regulations Specific exclusion: i. Cash and cash equivalents, other bank balances ii. Non-Core assets of the Corporate Debtor as mentioned in Category 'C'. iii. Proceeds from ongoing litigations	**4.610 Crores**	**0.461 Crores**
Category C -Sale of Non-core assets (only land parcels) (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A) Date and Time of e-auction: 01.01.2026 at 05.00 PM to 06.00 PM			
Asset Set 3	All the piece and parcel of a commercial plot at Sy No. 37-1, measuring 65.50 cents situated in Marakada Village, Mangaluru Taluk within Mangaluru City Corporation in the Registration Sub-district of Mangaluru, Karnataka	**87 Lakhs**	**8.70 Lakhs**
Asset Set 4	All the piece and parcel of six commercial Plots No.15,16,17,24,25, and 26 admeasuring 14,081.65 sq feet, situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**2.03 Crores**	**0.203 Crores**
Asset Set 5	All the piece and parcel of a commercial plot at R.S.No.110/3, measuring 3.17 Acres situated in Bramhawar, Udupi	**2.50 Crores**	**0.250 Crores**
Category D Sale of Movable Assets at leased premises (only if no bids are received from Asset Category A or B) Date and Time of e-auction: 02.01.2026 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon			
Asset Set 6	Plant and Machinery together with a Vehicle located at D. No, 12/92 and 12/93, Padavu Post, Shakti Nagar, Kulshekar, Mangaluru, Karnataka	**49.00 Lakhs**	**4.90 Lakhs**
Category E Sale of assets individual units (Movable and immovable properties) (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A or B) Date and Time of e-auction: 02.01.2026 at 01.00 PM to 02.00 PM			
Asset Set 7	**Industrial Property** (Movable and immovable assets) All the piece and parcels of the land measuring 100 cents, situated at, S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk, Karnataka together with building, plant and machinery, furniture & fixtures, and vehicles.	**1.95 Crores**	**0.195 Crores**
Category F-Sale of movable Assets (In case no bids are received for auction under Asset Set 7) Date and Time of e-auction: 02.01.2026 at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM			
Asset Set 8	**Machineries and movable Assets** Machineries at S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk, Karnataka along with all movable assets and vehicles	**32.00 Lakhs**	**3.20 Lakhs**
Category G Sale of Immovable Assets (E-auction only if Asset set 8 gets bids and results in a successful auction) Date and Time of e-auction: 02.01.2026 at 05.00 PM to 06.00 PM			
Asset Set 9	**Immovable Asset (Land & Building)** All the piece and parcels of the land measuring 100 cents, situated at, S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk , Karnataka together with building	**1.64 Crores**	**0.164 Crores**

1. This Sale Notice shall be read with the Complete 'e-Auction Process Information Document' (Process Document) containing details of the Assets, eligibility, E-Auction Bid Form etc which is available at https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home or can contact the Liquidator for further details.
2. Please note that in case the E-Auction for **Asset Category A or B** does not materialise for want of bidders etc, the assets shall be sold separately as per the above Table. The liquidator reserves the right to cancel the e-auction of any or all Assets Set under any or all category(ies) and /or set of assets being sold in the e-auction. The sale of Assets under this category i.e. going concern sale is subject to approval of the Adjudicating Authority.
3. Interested bidders for the respective Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) are required to submit the eligibility documents and EMD on or before **29.12.2025** as provided in the Process Document through the electronic platform only
4. The Liquidator reserves the right to amend the key terms of the sale process including timelines for any or all Category(ies) and/or Set of Assets(s) being sold in the e-auction, to the extent permissible under the applicable laws and regulations. Any information about the amendments/ extensions of any of the timelines with respect to the sale process timelines for any or all category(ies) and/or Set of Assets (s) will be available on the e-auction website and communicated to the Eligible/Qualified/Successful Bidder(s).
5. Prospective bidders shall deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) through the Baanknet auction platform only. If the bidder is found ineligible, EMD shall be liable to be forfeited.
6. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or commitment for sale of assets of the Company including Sale of the Company as a whole, on a going concern basis.

Please scan the QR code below to download a Teaser Document.

Sd/-
Ravindra Beleyur
Liquidator
Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited in Liquidation
'428,19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 11
email:Reliable_Cashew_CIRP@beleyur.com
Phone: 080 26540193 Mobile: +91 94481 46963

Date: 06.12.2025
Place: Bengaluru

New centre to tackle climate change impact on agriculture & healthcare

Will work closely with govt, pvt industry & scientific experts

AMULLYA SHHVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Sustainability and Climate Change to drive climate-readiness, resilience, and eco-friendly innovation, particularly in agriculture, environmental systems, and modern healthcare.

The CoE, established last week in collaboration with Ashraya Hasta Trust, aims to address critical gaps in India's preparedness for the ongoing climate crisis.

Speaking to *DH*, Dr Taslimarif Saiyed, Director-CEO of C-CAMP, stressed the urgency of developing climate-centric solutions. "Climate change is affecting sustainability, agriculture, food security, and healthcare. We will have to come up with solutions."

Saiyed highlighted the potential of bioscience and bio-based innovation to deliver impactful interventions across sectors.

On the health front, he noted that climate change is likely to increase the incidence of vector-borne diseases and accelerate the spread of new pathogens emerging from rising temperatures, humidity shifts, altered rainfall patterns, floods, and droughts.

However, the current healthcare system is not equipped to handle these threats. "Healthcare needs to be ready for early detection, surveillance and therapeutic capabilities, making us climate-resilient," he said.

Diseases such as chikungunya, Zika virus, and malaria could see significant spikes due to changing climatic conditions, he added.

The CoE will work closely with the government, private industry, and scientific experts to conduct detailed assessments and articulate key problem areas, enabling targeted and effective solutions.

In agriculture, the CoE aims to reduce methane emissions from crops such as paddy, while also enhancing yield with lower environmental impact. It will explore development of new crop strains to strengthen food security.

"We must reduce our dependence on fossil-based fertilisers and pesticides. Agriculture is practiced on a large scale, and this shift is essential," Saiyed noted.

The Centre of Excellence (CoE) aims to generate at least 10 solution-based innovations in its first year, focused on climate–agriculture and climate–health challenges.

The CoE aims to generate at least 10 solution-based innovations in its first year, focused on climate–agriculture and climate–health challenges.

"We hope to scale up the programme after three years with global support. If we are able to deliver 30 new solutions to address the issue, we will have hit the bull's eye," Saiyed said.

UGD work approved for Jigani to protect Hennagara Lake

Work order carries a completion deadline of three years

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following a Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) report highlighting multiple drains polluting Hennagara Lake, the state government has issued a work order to construct an underground drainage (UGD) system in the unsewered areas of Jigani town — the primary source of wastewater flowing into the lake.

The KSPCB report had noted that drains from Jigani, including the industrial area, and from Hennagara, Vaddarapalli, Madapatna, and Mastenahalli villages were discharging wastewater into the lake. The absence of a UGD system meant untreated sewage continued to flow directly into these drains.

Last year, the Southern Zone Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had criticised the government over the slow progress in addressing the issue.

The Urban Development Department (UDD) has now informed the tribunal that a Rs 82.23-crore work order has been issued to a private contractor for constructing a 73.56-km sewer network, providing house service connections to 6,300 units, installing machine holes, and supplying two suction-jetting machines and two desilting machines.

The project also includes building a 6 MLD-capacity sewage treatment plant (STP) in Hennagara, a 110-KLD STP in Srirampura, two wet wells, a rising main of nearly 7 km, pumping systems, and associated electrical works.

Deepa Cholan, secretary of the department, informed the tribunal that the work order carries a completion deadline of three years, with an additional five-year period for operation and maintenance. She added that land acquisition has begun, with the Town Municipal Council contributing 10% of the acquisition cost.

In the interim, the government said sewage generated in the area will be transported by tanker to the STP in Anekal for treatment.

"The above steps are being taken to ensure that there is no entry of sewage into Hennagara Lake," the department stated.

Seshadripuram Public School, Yelahanka, in collaboration with Shraddha Eye Care Trust, Sankalp Blood Bank and India Foundation, organised a health and blood donation camp. An eight-member medical team, including ophthalmologist Dr Tejaswini, ENT surgeon Dr Jayakumar, dentist Dr Asritha and Dr Ashish, offered services at the camp, which drew students, parents and staff. Dr Wooday P Krishna, honorary general secretary, Seshadripuram Education Trust, and college principal Parimala LK were present on the occasion.

'He didn't show it to the crowd': Minister's son on Aryan Khan's gesture at city pub

BENGALURU, DHNS: BZ Zaid Khan, the son of Karnataka Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, has clarified that Aryan Khan's purported obscene gesture at a Bengaluru pub was targeted at his manager and not the public.

Zaid, who is also an actor, had accompanied Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan's son when he recently visited Bengaluru for an event.

The 28-year-old filmmaker allegedly showed the middle finger at a pub on Lavelle Road on November 28.

"He (Aryan) panicked and went to a room as there were more people than what was expected. He also requested that the crowd be cleared.

"His manager, who is also his friend, went to disperse the crowd along with the bouncers and officials. Since the manager didn't return even after 30 minutes, we went to the balcony from the room.

"There, Aryan asked his friend what happened and made the gesture towards him and not to the crowd," said 23-year-old Zaid.

The issue gained media traction after Owaiz Hussain S, a Bengaluru-based lawyer, submitted a complaint to the DG&IGP, Bengaluru city police commissioner, DCP (Central), Cubbon Park police inspector, and Karnataka State Women's Commission, accusing Aryan of outraging the modesty of women.

Based on social media posts, police have taken up a suo motu case against Aryan.

SUV gutted after crash on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway

BENGALURU, DHNS: An SUV went up in flames after crashing into a milk tanker on the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway near Ramanagara on Sunday morning, police said.

The accident led to a massive traffic jam on the busy stretch.

Police investigations revealed that the SUV — a Renault Duster — crashed into the tanker while attempting to overtake it near Sangabasavanadoddi. A family of three was inside when the engine caught fire.

The driver and the passengers managed to jump out with minor injuries as the car went up in flames.

Fire and rescue workers doused the flames and cleared the SUV. The injured are being treated in hospital.

Ramanagara traffic police are probing the incident.

Special train to Karwar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate special trains between Yeshwantpur and Karwar to accommodate the increased passenger demand during Christmas and New Year.

Train number 06267 will leave Yeshwantpur at noon on December 24 and 27, and reach Karwar at 6.10 am the following day.

The return service, train number 06268, will depart from Karwar at noon on December 25 and 28, and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 4.30 am the next day.

Some of the stops are Chikkabanavara, Kunigal, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Honnavar, Kumta, Gokarna Road and Ankola.

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IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Training: 'Crop analysis using AI': SV Suresh, Karunakar J and Suma to attend; University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Theatre festival: N Mangala, Srinivas G Kappanna and Sambasiva Dalavai to attend; Organised by Karnataka Street Dance Academy; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 6.45 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Sermon: 'Bhagavata Saaroddhara'; Sitarama Mandir, BEML Layout, RR Nagar; 6.45 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.6°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	65%
Sunset (Dec 8)	5:53 pm
Sunrise (Dec 9)	6:29 am
Moonrise	8:30 pm
Moonset	8:51 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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JOIN THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES AS AN AGNIVEER

Selection Criteria	Army	Navy	Air Force
Education Qualification	**Agniveer (General Duty) (All Arms) & Agniveer (General Duty) (Women Military Police)** -Class 10th Matric pass with 45% marks in aggregate of five basic subjects and min 33% marks in each of those five subjects. For boards following grading system, grades commensurate to percentages, as above, will be considered. **Note:** Candidates with valid Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) Driving Licence will be given preference for Driver requirements. **Agniveer (Technical) (All Arms)**-10+2/ Intermediate Exam pass in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English with minimum 50% marks in aggregate and 40% in each subject. **OR** 10+2/ Intermediate Exam pass in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English from any recognised State Education Board or Central Education Board to include NIOS and ITI course of minimum one year in required field with NSQF level 4 or above. **OR** 10th/Matric pass with 50% in aggregate and minimum 40% in English, Maths and Science with 02 years of Technical training from ITI or two/ three years Diploma from recognised educational institution including Polytechnics in specified streams (Mechanic Motor Vehicle, Mechanic Diesel, Electronic Mechanic, Technician Power Electronic System, Electrician, Fitter, Instrument Mechanic, Draughtsman (all types), Surveyor, Geo Informatics Assistant, Information and Communication Technology System Maintenance, Information Technology, Mechanic cum Operator Electric Communication System, Vessel Navigator, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Auto Mobile Engineering, Computer Science/ Computer Engineering & Instrumentation Technology) as promulgated in Indian Army Recruitment Notification. **Agniveer (Clerk/ Store Keeper Technical)**- 10+2/ Intermediate Exam Pass in any stream (Arts, Commerce, Science) with 60% marks in aggregate and minimum 50% in each subject. Securing 50% in English and Maths/ Accounts/ Book Keeping in Class 12" is mandatory. **Agniveer Tradesman 10th Pass (All Arms) -** Simple 10th Pass (No stipulation in aggregate percentage but should have scored 33% in five basic subjects). **Agniveer Tradesman 8th Pass (All Arms)** - Simple 8th pass (No stipulation in aggregate percentage but should have scored 33% in five basic subjects).	**Agniveer (Senior Secondary Recruit)-**Qualified in 10+2 with Mathematics and Physics from Boards of School Education recognised by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, with minimum 50% marks in aggregate. **OR** Passed Three years Diploma Course in Engineering (Mechanical/ Electrical/ Automobiles/ Computer Science/ Instrumentation Technology/ Information Technology) from Central, State or UT recognised Polytechnic Institute with 50% marks in aggregate. **OR** Passed Two years Vocational Course with Non-vocational subject viz, Physics and Mathematics from Education Boards recognised by Central, State and UT with 50% marks in aggregate. **Agniveer (Matric Recruit)-** Passed Matriculation/ 10th or equivalent with 50% marks in aggregate from any Govt recognised School/ Board. **Agniveer (Matric Recruit Musician) -** Passed Matriculation/ 10" or equivalent with minimum 50% marks in aggregate from any Govt recognised School/ Board.	**Science Subjects -** Candidates should have passed Intermediate/ 10+2/Equivalent examination with Mathematics, Physics and English from Education Boards recognised by Central, State and UT with minimum 50% marks in aggregate and 50% marks in English. **OR** Passed Three years Diploma Course in Engineering (Mechanical/ Electrical/ Electronics/ Automobile/ Computer Science/ Instrumental Technology/ Information Technology) from Central, State and UT recognised Polytechnic Institute with 50% marks in aggregate and 50% marks in English in Diploma Course (or in Intermediate/ Matriculation, if English is not a subject in Diploma Course) **OR** Passed Two years Vocational Course with non-vocational subjects viz. Physics and Mathematics from Education Boards recognised by Central, State and UT with 50% marks in aggregate and 50% marks in English in Vocational Course (or in Intermediate/Matriculation, If English is not a subject in Vocational Course) **Other than Science Subjects:-** Passed Intermediate/10+2/ Equivalent examination in any streams! subjects from Education Boards recognised by Central, State and UT with minimum 50% marks in aggregate and 50% marks in English. **OR** Passed two years Vocational Course from Education Boards recognised by Central, State and UT with minimum 50% marks in aggregate and 50% marks in English in Vocational Course (or in Intermediate/ Matriculation if English is not a subject in Vocational Course). **Note 1**. Candidates eligible for Science Subjects examination (Including Intermediate/ 10+2/ three years diploma course in engineering or two years vocational course with non-vocational subject of Physics and Maths) are also eligible for Other than Science Subjects and would be given an option of appearing in both Science Subjects and Other than Science Subjects examination in one sitting while filling up the online registration form. **Note 2.** Education Boards recognised by Central, State and UT as on date of registration shall only be considered. **Note 3.** Exact aggregate Percentage of marks before decimal as written in the marks sheet of 10+2/ Intermediate/ Equivalent Examination/ Three years Diploma Course/ Two Years Vocational Course OR calculated as per the rules of concerned Education Boards/ Polytechnic Institute shall only be considered (For example 49.99% should be taken as 49% and not to be rounded off to 50%) **Agniveervayu (Musician) -** Passed Matriculation/ 10th or equivalent with minimum pass marks from any Govt recognised School/ Board.
Gender	**Men & Women (Only for Military Police)**	**Men & Women**	**Men & Women**
Height	**Ser / Region/Category / Min Ht (In Cms)** 1 — **Female (General)** Garhwalis, Gorkhas, Ladakhis, Tribals of recognized tribal areas, NE Region (Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam) — 162 / 158 2 — **Male** Western Himalayan - Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab Hills (Area South and West of the Inter State and Border between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and North and East of Road Mukerian Hoshiarpur, Garh Shankar and Ropar), Garhwal and Kumaon (UK) — 163 Eastern Himalayan- Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam and hill region of W.B (Darjeeling Distt) — 160 Western Plains- Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh (Meerut and Agra Div) — 170 Eastern Plains - Eastern U. P, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha — 169 Central Plains-Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Dadar, Nagar, Haveli, Daman & Diu — 168 Southern Plains- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa and Puducherry — 166 Clerk/SKT — 162 **Special Relaxation in Height** (Min Ht for Males (in cms)) Ladakhi — 157 Gorkhas (both Nepalese and Indian) — 157 Candidates from Andaman and Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep Group including Minicoy — (I) Settlers — 165 (ii)Locals — 155 Tribals of recognised tribal areas — 162	Minimum height standard is 157cms. However, relazation in height is permissible to candidates holding domicile of areas (a) Tribal from Ladakh — 155 cms (b) A&N Islands, Lakshadweep & Minicoy(locals) — 155 cms (c) Gorkha, Nepali, Assamese, Garwali, Kumaoni and Uttarakhand — 152 cms (d) Bhutan, Sikkim and NE region — 152 cms	152 cms for Agniveervayu male,162cms for Agniveervayu (Musician male). 152 cms for female (Agv/Agv (Musician)]. For candidates belonging to North East or hilly regions of Uttarakhand, a lower minimum height of **147 cm** will be accepted. In case of candidates from Lakshadweep, the minimum height will be **150cm**. **Note.** "Female candidates" availing height relaxation for being domicile of North East/ hilly regions of Uttarakhand/ Lakshadweep are to submit their domicile certificate with endorsement of domicile status at the time of Phase-II testing. **Further, candidates from hilly regions of Uttarakhand must have specific endorsement of hilly region in their domicile certificate.**
Selection Procedure	**Stage I-Online test** CEE (Common Entrance Examination) **Stage II** Physical Fitness test, Physical Measurement Test and Medical Examination	**Stage I - Online test** INET (Indian Navy Entrance Test) **Stage II** Physical Fitness test, Physical Measurement Test and Medical Examination	**Stage I – Online test** STAR(Scheduled Test for Agniveervayu Recruitment) **Stage II** Physical Fitness Test-I & II , Adaptability Test- I & II and Medical Examination
Physical Fitness Standard	**Male** **1.6 Km Run** (Group / Time) — **Beam (Pull Ups)** (Pull Ups) — **9 Feet Ditch** — **Zig - Zag balance** Group - I — Upto 5 Mins 30 Sec — 10 Group -II — 5 Mins 31 Sec to 5 Mins 45 Sec — 9 Group - III — 5 Mins 46 Sec to 6 Mins — 8 Group - IV — 6 Mins 01 Sec to 6 Mins 15 Sec — 7 / 6 Need to Qualify / Need to Qualify **Note:** Candidates appearing for AV Tech and AV Clerk/ SKT only need to qualify in all tests **Female** **1.6 Km Run** (Group / Time) — **10 Feet Long Jump** — **3 Feet High Jump** Group - I — Upto 7 Mins 30 Sec Group -II — Upto 8 Mins Need to Qualify / Need to Qualify	Gender / 1.6 km Run / Squats (Uthak Bathak Time) / Push-ups / Bent knee Sit-ups Male — 06 Min 30 Secs — 20 — 15 — 15 Female — 08 Min — 15 — 10 — 10	Gender / 1.6 km Run / Squats (Uthak Bathak Time) / Push-ups (Time) / Sit-Ups Male — 07 Min — 20 (01 Min) — 10 (01 Min) — 10 (01 Min) Female — 08 Min — 15 (01 Min) — - — 10 (01 Min and 30 secs)
Age	$17^{1/2}$ – 21 years Note (For Women Military Police in Indian Army only) - Upper age limit will be relaxed up to 30 years of age in respect of widow of defence personnel who died in hamess		
Duration of Services	Four years		
Enrolment in Regular Cadre	On completion of four years of service, based on organisation's requirements and policies promulgated by the respective services. Agniveers will be offered an opportunity to apply for permanent enrolment in the Armed Forces. These applications will be considered in a centralised manner based on objective criteria including performance during their four-year engagement period and up to 25% of each specific batch of Agniveers will be enrolled in Indian Armed Forces for further re-engagement in regular cadre. Agniveers will not have any right to be selected for further enrolment in to the Govt of India . Selection of the Agniveers for further enrolment, if any, shall be at the discretion of the Govt of India		
Marital Status and Pregnacy	Only unmarried Indian male and female candidates are eligible for enrolment as Agniveer. Candidates will have to give a certificate of being unmarried at the time of enrolment. Agniveers shall not be permitted to marry during their entire tenure of four years in the respective services. A candidate shall be dismissed from service if he/ she marries during his/ her tenure or is found to be already married despite giving certificate of being unmarried. Female candidates additionally shall be required to undertake not to get pregnant during the engagement period. Such women Agniveer on becoming Low Medical Category (LMC) due to pregnancy shall be liable to be discharged from service. Pregnancy will debar the women Agniveer for selection into regular cadre. **Note (For Women Military Police in Indian Army only) -** Women who are widowed, divorced or legally separated are also eligible provided they do not have any children. Widows of Defence Personnel are eligible with children if they have not remarried.		
Medical Standards	Candidates will be required to undergo medical examination as prescribed by the respective Services. More details available on websites of the respective Services.		
Pay, Allowances, Allied Benefits and Agniveer Corpus Fund (Seva Nidhi Package)	Agniveers enrolled under this scheme will be paid an Agniveer package of Rs. 30,000/- per month with a fixed yearly increment. In addition, Risk and Hardship allowances, Dress and Travel allowances will be paid. Perks such as ration, clothing, accommodation and Leave Travel Concession (LTC) shall also be provided as per the existing rules. Agniveers shall be given a one-time Seva Nidhi package comprising their monthly contribution along with matching contribution by the Government on completion of their engagement period, as indicated below.		

Year	Customised Package (Monthly)	In Hand (70%)	Contribution to Agniveer Corpus Fund (30%)	Contribution to Corpus Fund by GoI
	All Figures in Rs(Monthly Contribution)			
1st Year	30000	21000	9000	9000
2nd Year	33000	23100	9900	9900
3rd Year	36500	25550	10950	10950
4th Year	40000	28000	12000	12000
Total Contribution in Agniveer Corpus Fund after four years			Rs.5.02 lakh	Rs.5.02 lakh
Exit after 4th year	**Approximately Rs. 10.4 Lakhs as Seva Nidhi Package (absolute amount excluding interest)**			

Life Insurance Cover	Agniveer will be provided non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs. 48 Lakh for the duration of their engagement period.
Death Compensation	In addition to insurance cover of Rs. 48 Lakh, one-time ex-gratia of Rs. 44 Lakh for death attributable to service, will be provided to the NOK.
Disability Compensation	One-time ex-gratia of Rs. 44/25/15 Lakh based on % of disability (100%/75%/50%) shall be applicable to Agniveers.
Leave	30 days leave per year shall be applicable for Agniveers. Additionally, sick leave would be applicable based on medical advice of competent medical authority.
Medical and CSD Facilities	For the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces, Agniveers will be entitled for medical facility at Service hospital as well as CSD provisions.

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A private bus toppled on Mysuru-Bengaluru NH-275 near Agaralinganadoddi of Maddur taluk in Mandya district. DH PHOTO

Ex-CUDA president, two family members die in road mishap

NELAMANGALA (MANDYA DISTRICT), DHNS: Former Chikkamagaluru Urban Development Authority (CUDA) president, his wife and their relative died after the car they were travelling in crashed into a bridge wall and fell into a ditch on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru highway in the taluk on Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Chandregowda (62), the former CUDA president, his wife Sarojamma (57) and their relative Savithramma, all natives of Chikkamagaluru.

The accident occurred when they were travelling from Bengaluru to Chikkamagaluru.

The bodies were shifted to Adichunchangiri hospital mortuary for autopsy. The Bindiganavile police have registered a case.

In another accident reported near Agaralinganna Doddi in Maddur taluk, a private bus overturned on a service road, injuring more than 30 people. Locals pulled the injured passengers out of the bus.

The passengers were travelling to Bengaluru after visiting the Shimsha Maramma temple in Malavalli. The injured were taken to hospitals in Mandya and Maddur for treatment.

Closure of Aadhaar seva kendras in big cities hits services

New bid winner to start downsized units in 21 places

A large number of people used to visit the Aadhaar seva kendra in Hubballi, on occasions when new government schemes were launched and beneficiaries had to link up their Aadhaar cards. DH FILE PHOTO

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The downsizing of Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs) at major cities of the state has caused inconvenience to the public, besides burdening staff at existing facilities.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) closed all six ASKs in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Hubballi-Dharwad on November 30. It plans to replace them with smaller centres.

To provide Aadhaar card services like corrections and updation, UIDAI had set up ASKs in six cities. The services were being provided by private parties.

While Bengaluru, Mysuru and Hubballi-Dharwad had two centres each, Mangaluru and Davangere had one centre each.

The tenders of the service providers expired and UIDAI shut down all eight centres on November 30.

In Hubballi, there was an ASK of 16 counters where around 300-400 people used to get their Aadhaar cards updated on a daily basis. During government announcements of new schemes, where the beneficiary is supposed to link Aadhaar cards, the Hubballi ASK used to get more people.

According to an officer from UIDAI, they had opened multi-counter ASKs in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Hubballi-Dharwad for the last six years. As the tender of the service providers ended on November 30, they have called for fresh tenders and the bid winner will open new ASK centres on December 15.

"Apart from ASKs, Bengaluru-One/Karnataka-One, post offices and some banks are providing Aadhaar card-related services. There are even online facilities where people can get their date of birth and other details updated. Hence, it will not be difficult for people to get Aadhaar-related services," he said.

The officer said they will open 21 smaller ASKs in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Mysuru, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mangaluru, Bagalkot, Raichur, Tumakuru, Ballari, Chitradurga, Bidar, Shivamogga, Koppal, Haveri, Hassan, Karwar, Yadgir and Kolar.

While Bengaluru will get 24 counters in the centre, Belagavi, Vijayapura and Mysuru will get eight counters in the centre, and other cities will get four counters each.

Hubballi ASK operations manager Lohit Muduyappanavar said they had operated the centre for the last six and a half years in Hubballi.

The Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities had two centres where 24 counters were located (16 in Hubballi and 8 in Dharwad).

After November 30, both centres closed and a four-counter centre will be established in Hubballi.

While a few earlier staff will secure jobs in the proposed centre, other staff have lost their jobs. A similar situation can be seen in other centres too.

Sources said Protean eGov Technologies and BLS International Services have been awarded separate contracts by UIDAI to establish and operate district-level ASKs across the country, including 21 in the state.

The agencies will be responsible for infrastructure setup and daily operations, with a transaction-based revenue model regulated by UIDAI.

'Radicalised' inmate makes calls with impunity from Hindalga jail

Officials switch off jammers to help inmates, say residents in vicinity

The central prison at Hindalga on the outskirts of Belagavi.

RAJU GAVALI
BELAGAVI, DHNS

A convict lodged at the high-security Hindalga jail here, reported to have been radicalised by coming in contact with terrorists, is making calls to his contacts via different cellphones, raising suspicions over the role of prison staff.

This comes at a time when residents in Hindalga village on the city's outskirts and surrounding areas are unable to get cellphone connectivity due to signal jammers installed at the central prison.

It is suspected that the prison staff are working in connivance with some convicts and helping them to make calls, by switching off the jammers.

The suspect in question is Jayesh Pujari, a life sentence convict in a murder case and a native of Puttur in Dakshina Kannada district.

The prison incharge chief superintendent filed a case against Pujari in this regard with the Belagavi rural police on November 27.

The inspector general (south zone) of the National Investigation Agency, Delhi, had informed the Hindalga prison authorities about calls made by Pujari, who has different aliases, using a particular SIM number via different cellphones.

The calls were reportedly made between September 14, 2021, and November 26, 2025.

Pujari was in the news last year when he made threat calls to the office of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

The Nagpur police had taken him into their custody for investigation. He had also raised pro-Pakistan slogans on the court premises here last year. Residents in Hindalga and surrounding areas said prison staff make cellphones available to inmates, for which they were paid huge sums.

"This has been going on for years. When the matter comes to the fore, the phones are hidden in walls and floors. The phones are back in use when the issue dies down. Small-sized phones are made available to inmates by prison staff, while some inmates manage to get the devices themselves," a resident said.

Connectivity woes

D B Patil, a member of Hindalga gram panchayat, said since high-frequency jammers were installed in the prison, cellphone users (students in particular) in the vicinity were put to hardships.

"Protests were staged, urging prison authorities to confine the frequency of the jammers to the jail premises, but to no avail. Signals of some cellphone operators were not accessible and some were available beyond a distance of 500 meters to 1 km," he said.

Jayawant Salunke who runs a pharmacy shop nearby said many residents who worked from home were forced to go to places where internet connectivity was available. People using cellphones for various services, including UPI, were affected, he said.

Gita in schools: HDK hits out at CM for calling him 'manuvadi'

'Mine is Krishna-tattva, Congress believes in Kamsa-tattva'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday criticized CM Siddaramaiah for labeling him a "manuvadi" after the JD(S) leader advocated for the inclusion of Bhagavad Gita teachings in school curriculum.

"The Gita is the light and wisdom of the world, a lamp for righteous path, great essence of ideals," Kumaraswamy said, adding, "Mine is Krishna-tattva (philosophy of Krishna), Congress believes in Kamsa-tattva (philosophy of demon Kamsa)".

"The CM branded me a manuvadi and Minister Mahadevappa accused me of ideological downfall. Let these two gentlemen first tell us what exactly they will teach schoolkids. Is there no limit to foolishness?," he said.

"Perhaps Mahadevappa is unaware of the essence of the Gita. Maybe the essence of some other book has deeply influenced him!?," he said.

"All of us, including me, as people's representatives, take oath in a constitutional manner — we swear in the name of God or our parents. That too is the righteous path. So what exactly is Mahadevappa's 'path'? The path of Kamsa!!??," he said.

"Let Mahadevappa know this: The politics of India today stands on the foundation of Krishna-tattva. For war, politics, knowledge, governance and human relations, Gita is the guiding light. Krishna's teachings are eternal. The Gita is timeless," Kumaraswamy said.

Earlier, he had urged Cabinet colleague Dharmendra Pradhan, minister of education, to take steps to teach Gita in schools, colleges and universities.

"The National Education Policy places strong emphasis on value-based education. Introducing select teachings from Gita will help inculcate moral strength, clarity of thought & character among students, strengthening demographic dividend & preparing our youth to excel globally," he had said in his letter to Pradhan.

FOR HERITAGE & CLEAN AIR

Enthusiasts brave the morning chill to take part in the 'Vrikshathon' heritage run through historic monuments, including the iconic Gol Gumbaz, aimed at creating awareness on protecting the monuments and increasing forest cover in Vijayapura on Sunday. The event was flagged off at Dr B R Ambedkar stadium. DH PHOTO/SANJEEV AKKI

'Won't allow shifting of IPL matches from Chinnaswamy stadium'

BENGALURU, DHNS

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"This is a matter of prestige for Karnataka and Bengaluru. We will take steps to conduct upcoming IPL matches here only.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday said that they would not "allow" IPL matches to be shifted from Chinnaswamy Stadium in the city.

"This is a matter of prestige for Karnataka and Bengaluru. We will take steps to conduct upcoming IPL matches here only," Shivakumar told reporters after casting his vote during the KSCA elections.

Speaking about the polls, the deputy chief minister said: "I am a KSCA member. Nagaraj had given me membership when I was young itself. From Brijesh Patel, I know Anil Kumble, Prasanna and many others. I have voted for the candidate that I preferred."

Referring to the stampede that occurred on June 04 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium during the celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) maiden IPL triumph, which resulted in the death of 11 individuals, Shivakumar said steps would be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

Pillar damaged at Shiva temple in Hampi

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS: A pillar at the historic underground Shiva Temple in Hampi, where the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has initiated restoration work, was found broken. Worse still, the pillar has since gone missing, prompting an activist to lodge a complaint at the Kamalapur police station.

In his complaint, T Shivakumar, chief of the Vijayanagara district unit of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike Janasene, has alleged that stones from the pillar were priced loose using a machine. "I brought this to the attention of the ASI officials on December 2, but no action was taken. Not only was that pillar broken, but it has since gone missing. So, ASI officials must also be called in for questioning," reads Shivakumar's complaint.

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(S/o Late Sulegai Sajjanusa)
Born: 17-03-1940 | Died: 07-12-2025

We regret to inform that he has left us to heavenly abode on 07-12-2025. Cremation will be held at Chamarajpet Burial Grounds, (Behind TR Mills) @ 3 pm today 08-12-2025. We pray God to rest his soul in peace.

Deeply mourned by:
Wife Leela Bai
Sulegai Family, Sajjan Lodge

DH Classifieds

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JATINDIR DEENADAYALAN, residing at No. 29, Sacred Heart Road, DNS Layout, T C Palya, Bengaluru-560036, have changed my name to RYLEE QUINTON vide affidavit dated: 06-12-2025 before notary G. Rajendra, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as RYLEE QUINTON only

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National Herald case: Delhi cops serve notice on KPCC gen secy

MANGALURU, DHNS: As part of the probe into the National Herald case, the Delhi police on Saturday served a notice on KPCC general secretary Inayath Ali. Earlier, on Friday, notices were issued to KPCC president and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar and his brother D K Suresh.

Ali, known to be a close associate of Shivakumar, had contested the Assembly elections in 2023 from Mangalore North as Congress candidate. However, he had lost the election.

Officers from the Economic Offences Wing arrived at Ali's residence in Surathkal on Saturday and served the notice. It has asked him to appear in person and respond within one week.

Ali said, "The Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax department had served notices in 2016 in connection with the case, seeking details of financial transactions of the firm run by me and my brother. The current notice is a continuation of that process."

NGO raises concerns over functioning of ESZ monitoring committees in Shivamogga

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

As human wildlife conflict incidents rise in the state, an NGO in Shivamogga has flagged the need for better management of eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) of the three protected areas in Kudremukh, Someshwara and Mookambika wildlife sanctuaries, while officials have denied the allegations.

In a complaint addressed to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and officials of the state government, Green Lives Shivamogga Trust, said, "several illegal activities" were undertaken in violation of rules in the three sanctuary in the jurisdiction of the Kudremukh Wildlife Division.

The complaint said ESZ monitoring committees of Kudremukh park and Someshwara sanctuary have been set up without obtaining permission from the government. "As per point number 5 of all ESZ notifications, the monitoring committee must be constituted by the state government of Karnataka after obtaining all relevant approvals... Despite this, the member secretary has illegally constituted monitoring committees for these two protected areas without mandatory approvals of the government," it said.

'Meetings held illegally'

The complaint said the member secretary convened seven meetings of the monitoring committee of which "only the first" was conducted as per law.

"Subsequent meetings were held illegally, and the committee granted approvals and clearances for multiple proposals without authority, without the state government's approval and without following due procedure. These approvals are void ab initio, being issued by an illegally constituted committee," it said.

Further, it cited a written response by S G Vinayaka, a member of the Mookambika monitoring committee, saying he was officially invited to only two meetings and attended only one. N A Madhyasta, another member, said his appointment was limited to the Mookambika monitoring committee. "Both of their names were used in almost all notices and minutes of meetings (of other two monitoring committees) without legal appointment," it said.

The Shivamogga NGO has sought an urgent intervention of the authorities concerned to declare the monitoring committees of the eco-sensitive zones for Kudremukh and Someshwara "illegal". DH PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

M SIVARAMBABU
Member secretary of Mookambika monitoring committee and Kudremukh DCF

Except for Someshwara wildlife sanctuary, govt has appointed (NGO and expert) members for monitoring committee of Mookambika sanctuary and Kudremukh National Park.

The complaint said a tree felling order was issued by the Kundapura Deputy Conservator of Forest in Oct 2023 for widening NH 169. Though a stretch of the road comes under Kudremukh ESZ, the monitoring committee did not take action, it said, adding though environment clearance was required for 'Category B' projects in the ESZ, clearances were given without the same.

It sought an urgent intervention of the authorities to declare the monitoring committees for Kudremukh and Someshwara "illegal".

"Suspend all decisions, recommendations and approvals issued by these illegally constituted committees and order an immediate halt to all ongoing works pertaining to regulated activities within the ESZs," it said, requesting an inquiry.

Officials refute plaints

Member secretary of the Mookambika monitoring committee and Kudremukh DCF M Sivarambabu refuted all allegations. "Except for Someshwara wildlife sanctuary, the government has appointed (NGO and expert) members for the monitoring committee of Mookambika sanctuary and Kudremukh National Park," he said.

However, the Green Lives' complaint includes an RTI response dated Sept 22, 2025 by Kudremukh Wildlife Division, which says the government had not appointed non-government and expert members to the Kudremukh monitoring committee. "I will look into it," he said.

The officer said decisions on all proposals were taken as per rules. "The particular road (NH 169) doesn't warrant environmental clearance (EC) as the widening is for less than 30-km length. As it doesn't require EC, it doesn't require wildlife clearance," he said.

Ops may stabilise by Dec 10: IndiGo; 650 flights cancelled...

IndiGo, from Page 1

It also said there is growing confidence for stabilisation of the network by Wednesday, in comparison to the earlier timeline between December 10 and 15.

In a separate statement, IndiGo also said the Board of Directors of Interglobe Aviation Limited, which runs IndiGo, met on the first day the problem of cancellations and delayed flights arose.

This meeting was followed up with a session confined to only Board members at which it was decided to set up a Crisis Management Group (CMG) comprising the Chairman and Directors Gregg Saretsky, Mike Whitaker and Amitabh Kant and CEO Pieter Elbers.

This group met regularly to monitor the situation and is being constantly updated by the management of the measures being undertaken to restore normal operations, it said.

The open letter by the unnamed IndiGo pilot named the top management, accusing them of adopting measures that were detrimental to the working conditions of pilots and other employees.

Kashmir youth turn from anger to trade and skills

J&K govt expands 'mission youth' for jobless youngsters

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Across the Kashmir Valley, a subtle social shift is quietly unfolding from Baramulla and Kupwara in the north to Shopian and Pulwama in the south.

Youth once drawn into street protests and occasional stone-pelting are now being drawn towards structured skill-building and livelihood programmes, which offer a chance at stable employment.

Since 2019, the Jammu & Kashmir government has expanded "Mission Youth" — a comprehensive programme aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, vocational training, and self-employment — for unemployed youngsters.

Complementary initiatives, including the "Mumkin" and "Tejaswini" schemes, provide subsidies and loans to young men and women seeking to establish small businesses or gain vocational skills.

NGOs working in the Valley also provide counselling, life-skills training, and community engagement for at-risk youth.

Officials note that thousands of young people across the Valley have participated in these schemes, gaining training in trades such as plumbing, electrical work, mobile repair, hospitality, and horticulture management.

While official data does not specifically track former stone-pelters, anecdotal evidence and local reports suggest that some beneficiaries had previous encounters with law enforcement due to protests or minor offences.

A boatman catches fish in the River Jhelum on a foggy winter afternoon, in Srinagar on Sunday. PTI PHOTO

In Anantnag, Shopian, and Pulwama, youth previously involved in street unrest are reported to be engaged in small-scale agricultural and horticulture initiatives. "I had multiple FIRs against me and spent years in anger," said a 28-year-old from Pulwama, who chose to remain anonymous.

After completing a short-term training course under Mission Youth, he now runs a small tyre-repair shop. "No one believed I could change, but learning a trade gave me confidence and respect," he said.

In Kupwara and Baramulla, youth are taking up jobs in construction, retail, and small enterprises. NGOs highlight that many of these youngsters were never hardened radicals; their earlier involvement in protests often reflected a lack of direction and opportunities rather than ideology.

"Once given a skill and a chance to earn, their priorities shift naturally," said a counsellor with a Srinagar-based NGO.

Challenges remain. Many beneficiaries still face bureaucratic hurdles in accessing loans or subsidies, and some confront lingering social stigma due to their past.

Experts warn that for the transformation to be durable, support must extend beyond training, encompassing ongoing employment opportunities, mentorship, and community acceptance.

Yet, the overall trend points to a pragmatic lesson: Opportunity, not ideology, is increasingly shaping the choices of a generation raised amid unrest.

As one official in South Kashmir observed, "Empowering youth with skills and livelihoods often achieves what policing and sermons alone cannot."

Siddu backs HM for top job in case of...

Siddu, from Page 1

In these meetings, the CM is said to have backed Parameshwara, a dyed-in-the-wool Congressman who was the party's state president in 2013 when it won the polls and Siddaramaiah became CM for the first time.

In the past too, the CM has indicated that he would prefer to hand over the baton to someone from the Dalit community.

Sources said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has conveyed to Shivakumar that support of other senior leaders is crucial for him to realise his chief ministerial ambitions.

This message seems to have triggered the meetings by Shivakumar with Siddaramaiah loyalist and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi twice.

This was followed by a one-on-one meeting with Heavy Industries Minister M B Patil, a senior Lingayat leader.

The Congress leadership is likely to meet again to take the discussions forward on the Karnataka stalemate.

B'luru cybercrimes decline, but amounts lost are still high

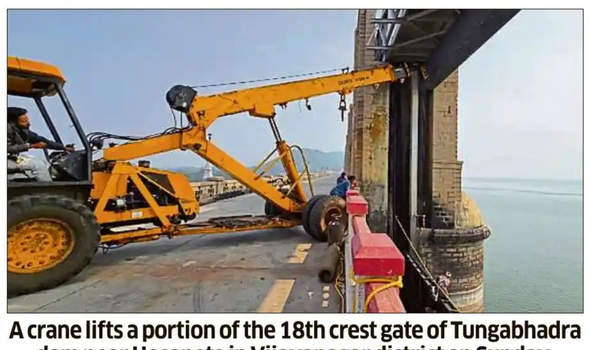
Cybercrimes, from Page 1

The RBI and the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau are issuing fresh SOPs, he explained. "This multi-front crackdown is showing results," he added.

Another cybercrime officer noted improvements in the Bengaluru police's investigation capabilities, especially in arrests and busting local mule account networks used by cybercriminals to launder the crime proceeds.

"Interstate police coordination has improved, both when our teams go to other states to arrest the suspects and when they come here. Social media and messaging app companies are also responding more promptly when their help is sought in investigations," the officer said.

However, some officers in the city police feel that FIR registrations have dipped, especially because investigators often ignore cases where small sums are lost. "The resources are stretched thin, and the top brass lacks the will to make a real difference. So investigators are not registering FIRs in all cybercrimes. If the amount lost is just a few thousands or lakhs, officials either don't register the FIR or drag the investigation," another senior officer stated.



A crane lifts a portion of the 18th crest gate of Tungabhadra dam near Hosapete in Vijayanagar district on Sunday.

Portion of 18th crest gate at TB Dam cut, removed

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS: The work on the replacement of the crest gates at the Tungabhadra Dam in Hosapete in Vijayanagar district is gathering pace, with a portion of the 18th gate cut and lifted from the dam.

Currently, the water level at the Tungabhadra Dam stands at 1,621.46 feet, against a maximum of 1,633 ft. The portion of the crest gate that was sliced and removed on Sunday was 10 feet above the surface of the water.

The authorities have commenced work at the centre of the reservoir, with work expected to be undertaken along the right and left flanks of the Tungabhadra Dam in phases. Sources in estimate that portions of crest gates around the centre of the reservoir may be removed by the third week of December.

Incidentally, it was the first time that a crane trundled into the Tungabhadra Dam. Once the portion of the 18th crest gate has been severed from the rest using a gas cutter, the crane was pressed into service to lift it up.

Currently, 65.52tmcft of water is stored at the dam, with a considerable amount of water being released into irrigation canals each day. Furthermore, before the water level drops all the way down to the concrete floor of the reservoir, water must be released from the dam to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Wildlife canine training centre coaches 10 dogs in a year

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

India's first dedicated Wildlife Canine Training Centre — also known as the wildlife sniffer, tracker, and offence-detection dog unit — located in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR), has completed one year of operations.

In its first year, the centre has trained 10 Belgian Malinois dogs along with their handlers. Two dogs each have been deployed to the Bandipur, Bhadra, Kali, Nagarhole, and BRT (Biligiri Ranganatha Temple) tiger reserves to support wildlife law enforcement and to help prevent and detect crimes such as poaching.

The puppies, aged between 60 and 90 days, were trained at the Melukamanahalli administrative block in Bandipur. Each tiger reserve has also received four trained sniffer-dog keepers—two for each dog.

S Prabakaran, Conservator of Forests and Field Director, BTR, said, "This centre is the first-of-its-kind and a model for the country. It is Karnataka's pioneering and effective wildlife conservation initiative. The dogs are trained to contribute to the protection of the state's rich wildlife and natural heritage."

A dog trained at the Canine Squad Centre in Bandipur Tiger Reserve. DH PHOTO

Under the guidance of canine behaviour expert Dr Amrut S Hiranya and with the Forest Department's support, dogs and handlers underwent rigorous training.

They are now equipped to detect wildlife parts such as elephant tusks and tiger meat or skin, forest wealth like sandalwood, as well as gunpowder and even offenders. The dogs will be deployed to track offenders involved in poaching, illegal timber felling, smuggling, and wildlife contraband.

They will also assist during human–animal conflict situations and help detect those responsible for setting intentional forest fires during the summer.

Prabakaran said handlers for all five tiger reserves are being identified. Once finalised, new puppies will be procured and another training batch will begin in January.

Prabakaran added that in recent years, five German Shepherds from the Karnataka Forest Department were sent for basic training at the Indo-Tibet Border Police Force (BTC-ITBP) centre in Panchkula, Haryana, in collaboration with TRAFFIC and WWF India.

India rolls out record border infra to counter threats

Border roads, from Page 1

"Such a massive operation was possible due to our strong connectivity. Logistics reached the forces on time. Our border-area connectivity made the operation a historic success."

According to officials, India's accelerated post-Galwan infrastructure thrust is driven by the strategic reality of facing two hostile neighbours simultaneously—a militarised China along the LAC and an unpredictable Pakistan along the LoC.

The 2020 Galwan clashes underscored the need for unfaltering logistics in high-altitude areas. With China continuing forward deployments and talks failing to achieve full disengagement in sectors like Depsang and Demchok, India's infrastructure strategy now prioritises permanence, survivability and rapid reinforcement.

Largest ever BRO rollout

The 125 projects inaugurated include 28 roads, 93 bridges and four miscellaneous works, spread across two Union Territories—Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir—and seven states: Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Mizoram. Valued at around 5,000 crore, this is the highest annual addition to BRO's project portfolio in its history.

"These enhanced capabilities will bring remote villages and forward posts closer to the national mainstream," Rajnath said, adding that India has shifted from reactive defence to proactive, capability-driven border management along both the LAC and the LoC.

Caste certificate fraud: SC rejects Cong MLA's plea against refusal to quash criminal case

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has come down heavily upon Congress MLA G Manjunath for abusing the process of law as it dismissed his plea against the Karnataka High Court's December 12, 2024, judgment refusing to quash a criminal case lodged against him for allegedly forging caste certificate to claim that he belonged to 'Budaga Jangama' caste.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe noted the petitioner led this court to believe that his writ appeal against the decision of the district caste verification committee, which rejected his claim of belonging to 'Budaga Jangama' caste, was pending before the division bench of the High Court and during its pendency, the single judge dealing with the quash petition had decided the case without waiting for the outcome thereof.

On April 1, 2025, the court stayed the HC's December 12, 2024 order and asked the division bench to decide his writ appeal. When the matter was listed before the HC's division bench on May 2, 2025, the counsel for the appellant stated that he has lost his file.

The division bench also found the registry has notified 19 objections in the writ appeal. When the matter was again listed on November 25, 2025, none appeared on behalf of the appellant.

After going through HC's orders, the apex court's bench on December 5, 2025 said,

"The petitioner did not even take steps in the said writ appeal to cure the defects therein or at least appear before the division bench when the matter was listed. This conduct on the part of the petitioner amounts to clear abuse of the process which cannot be condoned."

The apex court dismissed his special leave petition on this short ground, after hearing senior advocate S Nagamuthu for the petitioner, Karnataka's Additional Advocate General Avishkar Singhvi and C Jagadish and advocate Balaji Srinivasan for Amaresh, who contested 2013 Assembly election against the petitioner from Mulbagal (SC) constituency.

The FIR against Manjunath, sitting MLA from Kolar was in 2018 for offences under Sections 197, 198, 420, 468, 471 IPC and Section 3(1)(q) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

It was alleged that the petitioner, with a deliberate and calculated intent to unlawfully usurp constitutional benefits reserved exclusively for members of the Scheduled Castes, forged and fabricated a caste certificate to falsely project himself as belonging to the 'Budaga Jangama' community, a notified Scheduled Caste.

However, it was further alleged that all contemporaneous records—including his school transfer certificate and official entries—unequivocally established that he belonged to the 'Byragi' community (Category–I of the Other Backwards Classes) and not to any Scheduled Caste.

25 dead as blaze guts Goa nightclub

Goa, from Page 1

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others, expressed grief over the tragedy. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund will be given to the next of kin of each deceased and the injured would be given Rs 50,000, the PMO said.

A preliminary inquiry indicated that the fire started on the first floor, and due to congestion and small doors, customers could not move out.

"Some of them rushed to the ground floor and got trapped there," CM Sawant said. "We will take action against the club management and also against the officials who allowed it to operate despite flouting safety norms. This is an unfortunate incident during the peak tourist season," the CM said, adding, "We will conduct a detailed inquiry through a magistrate and stringent action will be taken against the guilty."

Riya, a tourist from Delhi who managed to get out in time, claimed that firecrackers burst all around when dancers were performing. "The fire must have been caused due to this. There was a stampede-like situation," she said.

At least 100 persons were on the dance floor, and in an attempt to escape the fire, some of them ran downstairs to the kitchen where they got trapped with the staff, Fatima Shaikh, a tourist from Hyderabad, said.

The nightclub is situated in the backwaters of the Arpora river and has a narrow entry and exit. There was no access for fire brigade vehicles because of the narrow lanes and their tankers had to be parked about 400 metres away from the spot.

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Short-term tenders are invited from eligible individuals/firms/agencies **for transporting liquor stock from designated depots of KSBCL to respective liquor retail outlets of MSIL coming under Davanagere Branch.** Last date and time for submission of bids: **23.12.2025 up to 3.00 pm.** Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.

Sd/- Branch Head(Davanagere Branch)

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No. CEE/Tr(O)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/NEL/F-482(2)/2025-26/7805 Dt: 05.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against the enquiry **No:KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-18, Indent No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2590(CALL-2)** for "Supply, Erection and Commissioning of New Capacitor Banks of capacity 2X2.904MVAR at **66/11kV Kudur sub-station** in Magadi Taluk, Bengaluru South District coming under Operations Division, Nelamangala on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials**(Exluding supply of 11kV switchgears)**/equipments and erection **(including civil works)** of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into **KPP Portal website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08.12.2025**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

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1	Providing Services for Customer Care and Ticket Office Machine (TOM) in Stations of Reach-1E and Reach R4&R4A of BMRCL. GEM/2025/B/688561	15.00 Lakh	13.11.2025	As per GeM Portal	15.12.2025 (Up to 3 PM)	15.12.2025 (at 3:30 PM)	One (01) Year period, extendable for futher period of Two (02) Years
2	Providing Services for Customer Care and Ticket Office Machine (TOM) in Stations of Reach-6 of BMRCL. GEM/2025/B/6887733	10.30 Lakh	13.11.2025	As per GeM Portal	15.12.2025 (Up to 3 PM)	15.12.2025 (at 3:30 PM)	One (01) Year period, extendable for futher period of Two (02) Years
3	Providing Housekeeping Service for Depot, Stations Viaduct Track and Trains of Reach-6 of BMRCL GEM/2025/B/6955271	18.21 Lakh	02.12.2025	As per GeM Portal	03.01.2026 (Up to 3 PM)	03.01.2026 (at 3:30 PM)	One (01) Year period, extendable for futher period of Two (02) Years

Note: Dates mentioned above may vary as per GeM Portal. For more details, please login to GeM Portal.

Sd/- Executive Director (O & M)

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Putin comes calling, Modi balances act

The excessive optics of the meetings between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi don't diminish the significance and outcome of the summit. The optics were perhaps intended for US President Donald Trump, to make the point that Russia and India would stay the course on strategic autonomy. On his first visit to India since the war in Ukraine began, Putin said the US had not succeeded in isolating him. Modi, for his part, used the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit to highlight how the decades-old relationship of the two nations had remained unaffected by Trump's blandishments and sanctions. The summit in New Delhi showed that the tailwinds of the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership of the two nations could further boost ties to help them navigate the emerging geopolitical challenges.

The Russian assurance of 'uninterrupted fuel supply' flies in the face of increasing Western pressure, especially from the US, to push India to slash oil imports from the country. This shows New Delhi's determination to walk the talk when it comes to 'strategic autonomy'. The focus on jointly developing 'systems of bilateral settlements through the use of national currencies', based on an agreement arrived at during the 16th annual BRICS summit held in October 2024 at Kazan, shows a mutual commitment to improve trade ties. The roadmap for strengthening and expanding the relationship testifies to this resolve. In addition to defence, the focus on pharmaceuticals, fertilisers and shipping indicates a commitment not only to increasing the volume of trade but also to reducing India's trade deficit with an expansion in the range of exports. The silver lining in the falling rupee is that it helps exports, especially as the two countries will be trading in their respective national currencies.

India drives home the point that its ties with Russia are unaffected by Trump's moves

India has to balance its deepening ties with Moscow without disturbing its equations with Washington and Brussels. It has addressed Western concerns over Ukraine by reiterating its call for peace. India would need to closely monitor the enduring bonhomie in Russia-China ties and at the same time sustain the momentum of its ties with China. New Delhi and Beijing have only recently revived high-level exchanges after a gap of more than five years. The evolving ties are based on pragmatic considerations of mutual gain. While being wary of China, now being treated as an equal by the US, and the China-Russia friendship, India will have to walk a tightrope among the three big powers. By rolling out the red carpet for Putin, India has shown that it is determined to maintain strong ties with Russia to protect its interests, particularly in energy.

Falling rupee unlikely to bounce back soon

The rupee has breached the psychological level of 90 a dollar, falling over 7% in the past year, with the decline accelerating in the last few weeks. The decline is expected to continue. The main contributing factors are a negative balance of payments, increasing trade deficit, and a growing current account deficit. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not actively intervened in the currency market to check the slide. It is not a temporary fall that can be tackled with *ad hoc* measures. The macroeconomic factors accounting for the weakening of the rupee may stay for some time, and the RBI has wisely decided not to prop up the currency by artificial means. It is a natural fallout of many factors over which the country and the RBI have no big control. Efforts to stop the decline in such situations have not been effective in the past.

The country's balance of payments became negative in the second quarter of this financial year to the tune of $10.9 billion, as against a surplus of $18.6 billion during the same period last year. The decline of exports and a surge in gold imports, the higher cost of petroleum product imports, and high portfolio outflows have together exerted increased pressure on the rupee. Merchandise exports contracted by around 12% in October and exports to the US declined by 8.6% as a result of the higher tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump. Gold imports rose to $14.7 billion in October, as against $4.9 billion a year before, and the trade deficit soared to a high of $41.7 billion. Foreign portfolio investors have made large withdrawals from the Indian market. Uncertainty still dogs the India-US trade deal.

America's tariffs are just one of many factors contributing to the sharp decline

Foreign exchange reserves have fallen by $6.4 billion in the first half of the year, but they are at a comfortable level at about $690 billion. Retail inflation has fallen with headline CPI inflation coming down by 0.25% in October, which is well below the RBI's tolerance level. This gives the RBI some room to withstand currency depreciation. Among the measures that can help to stabilise the rupee are a reduction in the import of oil and gold and an increase in exports. But oil imports are likely to cost more if there is a major shift away from Russian crude. A weaker rupee will help to increase exports, but it should be noted that it has appreciated against the yuan. That can make Chinese imports cheaper and increase the trade deficit. The trend is unlikely to see an immediate end.

FUTURE PROOFING EDUCATION

Pvt or govt school? How parents in K'taka decide

A new survey shows that parents prefer govt schools and move to private institutions only under certain conditions

PRAMOD SRIDHARAMURTHY AND SUDHIRA H S

For years, there has been a familiar debate in Karnataka's public education circles. News reports, education officials, and public discussions often claim that parents are steadily abandoning government schools for private ones. It is a view repeated so often that it feels like settled truth.

A new statewide study covering 14,149 parents across 34 education districts now complicates that narrative. The findings reveal that most parents still prefer government schools and move to private institutions only when certain conditions push them to do so.

The data is clear. Families earning less than Rs 10,000 a month show a strong preference for government schools. Middle-income families do the same unless certain concerns grow too large. Only high-income families move almost entirely towards private schools. The idea that parents have lost faith in the public system does not hold up against the numbers. Instead, the findings suggest that trust is present but somewhat fragile.

One of the strongest reasons behind the shift to private schools is the demand for English medium instruction. This choice is not rooted either in status or appearance. Parents see English as essential to future opportunities. Even families that are satisfied with many aspects of government schools feel they must switch if English medium options are not available.

Another factor is the perception of teaching quality. Many parents believe private schools offer better teaching even though government teachers are better qualified, receive regular training and often perform better in national assessments.

The perception gap may exist because these strengths are not visible to parents, who judge what they can observe directly. They notice punctuality, notebook checks, homework follow-up, classroom order and regular communication.

The study also captures the strengths of government schools. A large majority of parents appreciate the midday meal programme; they also value the sports opportunities provided; two-thirds said that government schools complete the syllabus on time; and thirty-four percent of parents said that proximity and ease of access influenced their decision.

Families also recognise the presence of trained teachers and a generally safe environment. Despite these strengths, government schools are still often viewed as welfare-oriented institutions rather than quality public services.

Teacher availability stands out as another concern. Seven in 10 parents worry about shortages, frequent staff changes or uncertainty in staffing. Many also believe that government teachers handle a significant amount of

non-teaching work, which affects how they view teaching consistency.

Seventy-one percent of parents list teaching quality as a concern. Most cannot evaluate teaching techniques, so they rely on visible cues, such as school building, classroom order, homework follow-up and general discipline.

Parents also feel that private schools respond faster, share updates regularly and keep communication simple.

About half the parents say that the lack of CBSE or ICSE options in government schools influences their decision. Many families see these boards as offering better opportunities, even though both follow the NCERT framework.

Parents also feel they have more influence in private schools. In government schools, many are unsure about their own role.

The study also shows that some perceptions around why parents choose private schools are often misunderstood. Only a small proportion of parents see private schooling as a status choice, and most disagree. For these families, the shift to private schools is driven mostly by practical concerns rather than image.

Taken together, the findings show that parents are making practical decisions. They recognise the strengths of government schools but worry about consistency, language opportunities, responsiveness and predictable teaching.

The data points to a few areas where focused action could strengthen government schools and reinforce confidence among families.

The first is a practical approach to the demand for English medium. Instead of positioning language choice as a cultural conflict, the state could consider making mathematics and science textbooks bilingual in the early grades. This gives children conceptual clarity in Kannada while building comfort with English terminology. From high school onwards, especially in Classes 9 and 10, these subjects can be offered fully in English. This phased approach gives families a credible alternative within the government system.

The second involves reframing the strengths of government schools. Free education, midday meals, sports facilities, accessibility and reliable syllabus completion should be presented as markers of quality rather than as welfare benefits.

When strengths are seen as welfare, families underestimate their value.

Teacher availability needs improvement as well. Filling vacancies is important, but stability throughout the year matters just as much. Ensuring that guest teachers are appointed before the year begins and preferring candidates who have cleared eligibility tests can make a noticeable difference. Publishing teacher availability at the school level can also make progress visible to parents.

Physical conditions strongly shape perception. Clean classrooms, proper toilets, lighting and basic teaching materials matter to families. CSR funding should support minimal infrastructure improvements across many schools rather than deep upgrades in only a few.

Communication is another area where improvements can help. Many parents are unaware of existing initiatives and student achievements in government schools.

Parental participation matters. Beyond formal parent teacher meetings, schools can create flexible PTM days. SDMCs can be strengthened through periodic training and more structured involvement.

(The writers are with India Literacy Project, a non-profit that works towards enhancing the quality of education in government schools)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

In the shadows of Bengaluru

Unsung stories of migrants who reshape their destinies and hold our homes together

M V SUNDARARAMAN

Mansi was recommended to us by a friend when our cook left without notice. After a brief meeting, we welcomed her into our home. That was many years ago. From the very first day, Mansi would arrive at 6 am sharp. No reminders, no calls to check where she was—just quiet, unwavering punctuality. Come rain or shine, she turned up. She went about her work silently, with care and attention. No complaints, no delays. She would take instructions patiently, finish every task neatly, and slip away without fuss. At first, she kept to herself. But over the years she started opening up in short, whispered conversations.

Mansi came from a small village on the border of West Bengal. A family of four adults and many children shared a tiny home and a small patch of dry land that barely supported them. When life grew hard, she took a bold decision to leave her village in search of work. She travelled hundreds of kilometres to Bangalore, a city that was entirely unfamiliar to her. She didn't speak its language, didn't know the culture, and had never heard of its cuisine. All she carried with her was a fierce determination to survive and a few hundred rupees.

She took up odd jobs, doing whatever sustained her, saving up and sending it home. Eventually, she found us. We became her first regular job—an engagement that gave her not just an income, but dignity and security too. Quietly, through sheer toil and patience, she helped transform her family's destiny. Today, Mansi is not the same timid woman who walked into our home years ago. She's more confident. Her children are all educated -- one even works as a stewardess with a national airline.

But then, what happens to success stories like Mansi's? I wonder. Why do we never hear of them? Podcasts and self-help books abound with stories of city-bred strugglers reaching top corporate positions – but stories of quiet courage in humble callings like Mansi's almost never make it to the headlines. When a Hindi-speaking delivery person hands us groceries at our doorstep, do we ever pause to think about the strength it took to leave his village, his family, and his comfort zone? To move to a bustling, unfamiliar city like Bengaluru? Mansi's journey has always been a quiet reminder to me that success isn't just about where we end up. It's about how far we have come and how we shaped our destinies.

A destination for second chances, Bengaluru hums with sounds of Hindi, Odia, Bengali, Tamizh and so many more – all keeping the city's pulse vibrant and throbbing. The city has lovingly embraced the struggles and hopes of countless migrants like Mansi and has given wings to dreams born in distant villages and small towns. For countless families living far away, unaware of the daily battles of their loved ones in this unfamiliar city, Bangalore holds a promise—a gentle light guiding them toward a better tomorrow. So, here's to Mansi, and to every toiling soul like her in this city. May their stories be told, their journeys celebrated, and their strengths honoured.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting users demands better preparation

Apropos 'A textbook case of governance by impulse' (Dec 6), the government's withdrawal of the Sanchar Saathi app from mobile phones has weakened its claim that the initiative was introduced with the genuine intention of safeguarding users' interests. The rising number of people falling prey to cyber fraud clearly prompted the government to explore such measures among other initiatives. However, the usual issues of not consulting opposition leaders, experts and other stakeholders have come to the fore once again, with technology companies objecting to compliance requirements and citing a lack of transparency. Proper preparedness would have strengthened what was otherwise a well-intentioned initiative, and its withdrawal has made any further push more difficult.

S Sundaresh, Bengaluru

What's in a name?

The Centre has decided to rename the PMO as Seva Teerth and Raj Bhavans, the official residences-cum-offices of the governors of states, as Lok Bhavans; consequently, many governors, including the one in Karnataka, have renamed their official residences as Lok Bhavans. Many have opposed this decision of the MHA. The stand of those opposing the move is that even if the name is changed, it will not have an impact on the attitude of governors appointed by the Central government led by the BJP. Whether it is the case of the presiding officers of the state Legislature and Parliament or the governors of the states, they are likely to be biased in favour of the ruling party, which is responsible for their appointment.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

An inclusive curriculum

Apropos 'India must outgrow, not erase Macaulay' (Dec 5), decolonising education in India is not about erasing our colonial past but about embracing our inherent culture with a side of progress. As rightly pointed out, it means incorporating modern tools and ideas while conserving our rich heritage. We must blend traditional knowledge with contemporary relevance, ensuring our education system reflects our values and aspirations. The authorities concerned must focus on creating a curriculum that is inclusive, innovative, and rooted in India's civilisational ethos.

Kanu Priya S, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

People are interested in *roti, kapda aur makaan* and have understood that Mamata Banerjee is the only leader who touches everyone's heart... People will ultimately support Mamata Banerjee.

Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, WB Minister and TMC leader

Hubris is one of the great renewable resources.

P J O'Rourke

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

India's GDP glow and ground reality

The numbers may be overstated and structurally misleading, creating an illusion of higher growth

SUBHASHREE BANERJEE AND SHAMBHURAJE NIMBALKAR KHARDEKAR

India's real GDP (gross domestic product) growth is being celebrated at 8.2% in the second quarter of the financial year (July-September 2025). This growth, as claimed, is being driven by the secondary sector (8.1%) and the services or tertiary sector (9.2%). Manufacturing (9.1%) and construction (7.2%) have been the key growth drivers in the secondary sector.

At the outset, these figures appear highly impressive and provide an optimistic narrative for India's ambition to become a developed country by 2047. However, a closer look shows that the numbers may be overstated and structurally misleading, creating an illusion of stronger growth than what actually exists.

Several economists have argued that these figures are far from the actual economic growth, cautioning that the GDP data is unreliable. The quarterly estimates are based on unrealistic assumptions and poor-quality data. Reliance on the outdated base year (2011-2012) and low measured inflation does not fully reflect the current patterns of consumption and production. Moreover, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) continues to draw on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of 2011-2012, after the government discarded the 2017-2018 survey, citing data-quality issues, making the measure less reliable.

Secondly, the unorganised or informal sector is not fully captured, despite constituting a major share of the economy. Instead, GDP estimates rely heavily on the organised sector, which is used as a proxy for smaller sectors, thereby distorting the true picture. The model simply assumes that informal sectors grow at the same rate as the organised sector, inflating the numbers, while in reality, these sectors may be contracting.

The informal sector in India employs a larger share of the workforce. When data does not give a clear picture of the informal sector, it tends to provide misleading conclusions about the true health of the economy. This masks the problems of vulnerable sections in terms of declining real wages, which demand urgent attention from policymakers.

The data also shows discrepancies between the production and expenditure sides of GDP, suggesting inconsistencies and gaps in how economic activity is measured. Also, India lacks seasonally adjusted quarterly data, which can be used to understand trends and the drivers of such growth. Such adjustments help segregate temporary effects from real changes, making it easier to identify the real causes behind the growth. The International Monetary Fund's 'C' grade for India's national accounts reflects these weaknesses, highlighting poor data capture that undermines the reliability of both GDP and inflation figures.

A closer look at the annexure does not present a promising picture compared to 2024-25. Of the 22 listed items, nine show an increase over last year—rice, cement, telephone subscribers, sales of commercial vehicles, exports, railway net tonne-kilometres, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for manufacturing, IIP electricity and IIP capital goods. The remaining items show a decline in growth. Private consumption remains weak, household financial savings have fallen, along with jobless growth. An evident K-shaped recovery is seen, where the corporate and organised sector profits are surging, while the informal sector is being left behind.

Further, the 8.2% growth figure, when broken down, shows a rise in year-on-year public expenditure, contributing to a strong fiscal deficit. Reliance on the Keynesian-style government spending can be risky as it often creates assets that do not boost the economy and are hard to sustain when the fiscal deficit is high, that is, Rs 8.25 crore (52.6% of the annual target) in October 2025. The punitive 50% tariff imposed by the US has compounded the challenges of achieving the 2047 target. Between May and October 2025, shipments fell by 28.5%, with the steepest declines in labour-intensive products. Thus, while GDP growth appears strong on paper, the economy remains vulnerable to such external and internal shocks, suggesting that the growth rates may be overstated.

It is evident that India's 8.2% growth is heavily reliant on government spending and investment, while job creation remains weak and the informal sector undercounted. The new base year 2022-23, which will be released in February 2026 by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), is likely to provide a more realistic picture. However, this will be considered from Q3 of 2026-27 and will capture structural shifts of the gig economy, digital payments and services, while also expanding the CPI basket. This shift will likely show actual growth rates lower than reported, underscoring the need for caution before celebrating the figures.

(Subhashree is an assistant professor; Shambhuraje is a student, Department of Economics, Christ deemed to be University)

Bullet trains: Lessons from Jakarta to Mumbai on debt and development

V RANGANATHAN

Indonesia conceived a high speed rail project from Jakarta in Western Java to Surabaya in Eastern Java in 2008. China has taken up the project under its Belt and Road Initiative which is President Xi's strategy to win friends and extend sphere of influence through soft power. Indonesia chose China over Japan because initially the Chinese bid did not require government guarantee for its 2% loan, as against Japan's development bank JICA's bid with an interest of 0.1% with government guarantee, but with a caveat that technology and equipment must be sourced from Japan. Later, China too asked and got government guarantee, but without reduction in the interest rate.

The special purpose vehicle (SPV) running the 'Whoosh' (bullet trains) has an Indonesian public sector undertaking (PSU) holding 60% equity and a Chinese PSU holding 40% with the project having a debt:equity of 75:25. The first phase of the project from Jakarta to Bandung—covering a relatively short distance of 145 km that is covered in 45 minutes—has commenced commercial operation in 2023 and has run into losses. The PSU has incurred a loss of $253 million in the last year and $96 million in the first half of 2025.

The main reasons are lack of demand and high fares at $15 for this section, which is five times that of the normal train fare. There is a sense of *déjà vu* of executing unneeded white elephant projects and making them look viable by overestimating the demand and subsequently getting into a debt trap. With the souring of BRI projects, China is taking over the assets when the target country is unable to pay back. Instead of winning friends this has made it an enemy of the people of the target country. Examples include, Pakistan, Balochistan province and the Sri Lankan port project and now Indonesia.

Now, how has India performed in the bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad? Firstly, it went with Japan, the pioneers of bullet trains. The project seeks to cover a distance of 508 km in two hours and seven minutes with few stops and three hours with stops at 12 stations en route. Close to 80% of the project cost of approximately Rs 1.1 lakh crore is through a soft loan from Japanese development bank JICA at 0.1% interest, with 50 years repayment and a 15 year moratorium. India's 0.1% rate for the Mumbai–Ahmedabad High Speed Rail is among the lowest-ever offered by JICA to any upper-middle-income country. The total package of interest rate, moratorium and repayment period is even better than IDA loans of World Bank for essential projects in poor countries. However, like the Nano paradox—where the car was meant to be affordable for a poor man, but this noble idea itself turned out to be its undoing—this project's strength becomes its weakness. It puts India as a receiver of aid and gives lie to the rhetoric of becoming a developed country by 2047. In spite of such attractive financials, the project does not quite clear the bar of financial viability because of high capital cost and 'ridiculously optimistic' ridership forecasts (40,000 end-to-end passengers daily in 2023), high ticket fares (of about Rs 3,000) in the presence of competitive air fares (about the same for cheapest air fares) and conventional train fares (for Vande Bharath CC class fare is at Rs 1,210, and it takes five-and-half hours). Moreover, there is a foreign exchange risk, since JICA loan must be repaid in Japanese yen. When rupee becomes weaker than yen, it must pay more rupees for the same yen, but the government, which sets prices of public transport, cannot afford to increase the fares in proportion to inflation and as frequently.

What about economic viability? These address the benefits of time saved, increased productivity and monetising land price appreciation and so on, but no study has quantified these. There is nothing for social viability—where Re 1 benefit received by a poor man is valued at a multiple of Re 1—as the project is for the richer sections of the population.

The project is likely to benefit Gujarath much more than Maharashtra, as is evident from the difference in excitement in the two states about the project.

So far, Indian Railways has been a glaring contrast with European Railways. IR is characterised by very low fares and very high passenger load factors of 110% (people travelling, hanging out of the train, in Mumbai suburban) and freight traffic subsidising the politically sensitive passenger traffic. IR has also been ceding some 90% of commercial freight traffic to the road, despite lower costs due to huge economies of scale. European railways, by contrast, feature high ticket prices and low passenger load factors. Ironically, the bullet train project seems to nudge India towards this European model--high fares and fewer passengers--holding up 'developed country' optics!

(The writer is retired professor of economics and energy, and RBI Chair Professor of Infrastructure, IIM-B)

The country has introduced a new law to wean children under 16 off the likes of TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube and Instagram. The teenagers are sceptical

Australia's social media ban meets digital childhood

VICTORIA KIM

Schoolchildren waiting for a bus on their way home in Lidcombe, a suburb of Sydney. Australia is gearing up to shield children from the risks associated with social media until they are capable of navigating it responsibly. NYT

Darcey Pritchard, 15, deleted Snapchat off her phone about a year ago when she felt sucked in by its algorithm.

Her friend Luca Hagop, also 15, recently spent more than 34 hours on Instagram in one week, sharing pet videos and other reels "so random, they're funny because they're so unfunny."

Amelie Tomlinson, 14, keeps up with her friends on Snapchat, and until recently, had almost no one's phone number.

Her friend Jasmine Bentley, 15, is not allowed on any social media but dreams of being a content creator.

The two sets of friends, living in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, offer a small window into the wildly different relationships today's teens have with social media. But they are united on one front: They do not think a new Australian law that bars children under 16 from having social media accounts, which takes effect Wednesday, will change their lives much.

Australia passed the law a year ago, setting itself up to be a test case for what many parents say feels like this generation's Sisyphean task—shielding children from the risks associated with social media until they are capable of navigating it responsibly.

But these teenagers, born around the same time that Instagram and Snapchat were first released, are digital natives. Most know how to use VPNs, which may help them evade the ban. Many fudged their ages when they first signed up, to get around the minimum age of 13 for many social media services. Others have used their parents' information to get accounts, or have older siblings whose identities they can co-opt. More than anything, social media is just too deeply embedded into their lives. "It's how we communicate," Amelie said. Darcey said some of her friends had been talking about migrating to new apps. "You're not going to stop these people," she said.

Rewire impulses?

In recent years, parents around the world have grappled with increasing alarm about social media's detriments to mental health, potential to enable online bullying and effects on developing brains.

Australia was one of the first countries to pass a nationwide law to address those concerns. Last December, it set 16 as the minimum age for social media accounts, meaning hundreds of thousands of younger children would lose theirs. Other nations, like Malaysia, have followed suit with similar plans.

Australia is putting the onus is on the social media companies to keep younger children off their platforms and will not penalise parents or children who violate the law. Officials, including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, have tried to tamp down expectations that the law will be an overnight fix.

They say they are supporting parents who feel powerless against the lure of social media and peer pressure among teens. Anika Wells, the minister for communications, described an almost idyllic new reality with children awash in time for sports, baking or learning a new language.

But it will be far from that simple. The lives and friendships of many 13- to 15-year-olds are enmeshed with social media—even if the children are not on it themselves.

For instance, when Darcey and her friends were playing an online guessing game, many of the clues were memes everyone else had seen on Instagram. When Amelie and a friend got to school 15 minutes before the first bell, they made four TikTok videos. When Jasmine puts on makeup, she will record herself, even though she is not on social media. And when Luca's mother died a few years ago, he found it helpful to type out his feelings on an anonymous server on Discord.

Can a law rewire those impulses? Currently, 10 social media services are covered by the ban: Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, Twitch, X and YouTube. The companies have said that they do not believe a blanket ban is the best way to keep children safe, but that they will nevertheless deactivate accounts of children under 16.

"They're ripping away something that has grown on us and become more part of our lives every day," Jasmine said.

Two popular apps in Australia in the weeks leading up to the law were "Yope," a photo sharing app targeting Generation Z, and "lemon8," a TikTok alternative owned by the same parent company, ByteDance, portending a potential game of Whac-a-Mole with regulators.

'It's not our choice'

Luca jokes that Darcey lives under a *1984* regime when it comes to social media and phones, a nod to the all-controlling government in George Orwell's novel.

Her parents have set daily time limits on apps for her and her two younger siblings—for Darcey, five minutes on YouTube, 30 minutes for WhatsApp, 10 minutes on Spotify—and "downtime" overnight.

It is a careful equilibrium reached after many family discussions and a few charged, tearful fights. But it also means that after school on a recent afternoon, she spent hours talking to her father about her German homework, helping cook dinner and watching "The Simpsons" with her brothers, while her phone sat untouched in the designated spot on the kitchen counter. And when she found herself mindlessly scrolling on Snapchat, she herself decided to get off the app.

Caroline and Joel Pritchard, Darcey's parents, said it seemed like a lonely uphill battle to restrict their children's phone usage. "It almost will feel like a bit of weight off our shoulders for the government to step in and go, hey, it's just banned," Joel Pritchard said. "We can now turn around and say, 'Hey, it's not our choice.'"

Darcey, who has been talking and thinking about social media's effects on her peers through her involvement in a youth-driven initiative called Project Rockit, said that limiting teenagers' use was only delaying the problem, and letting companies off the hook from making their platforms free of potentially harmful content.

Luca, her friend since primary school, has always had free rein over his internet and phone use. He found a creative game building community on Discord — which will not be affected by the law—and enjoys science videos on YouTube.

Instagram, he said, is just an easy pastime, which takes less effort than, say, setting up a board game. Even though at times he has felt "trapped" by its algorithm, he thinks he can outsmart it by shutting down the app when he sees videos he does not like.

"Today I liked a few dog reels in a row, and then I got only dog videos for a few hours," he said on a recent afternoon, when he had stayed home sick from school.

His father, Adrian Hagop, said he had always trusted that Luca and his older brother were mature and responsible enough to make their own decisions, and believed they should learn to deal with problems they may encounter online, rather than coddle them from unknown perils.

His approach is to let them have those experiences and come to him to talk about it afterward if need be. Even after the ban, if Luca wants to be on social media, Hagop said he would help him get an account.

'The horse has already bolted'

When Amelie was trying to persuade her parents to allow her on TikTok, she pleaded her case in a five-page, single-spaced letter about not wanting to feel left out.

Her mother, Catherine Best, said she felt that parents had lost control years ago. When Amelie had just started primary school, Best deleted YouTube off her daughter's school-required iPad because she was watching toy unboxing videos nonstop. The school insisted on reinstalling it because teachers used educational videos on YouTube in class.

"That was really the gateway," said Best, who said the law was too little, too late. "I feel like the horse has already bolted."

Amelie said that, like many of her friends, she had two TikTok accounts, both set to private: one for just close friends and the other for a wider group. The account with her friends has her age set to 19, so she was not worried about losing access. But she was exchanging phone numbers with friends for the first time in anticipation of losing her Snapchat account. This month, the app prompted her to verify her age—set to 16—with a selfie, and it approved her as being old enough to continue using her account, she said. **NYT**

How security is strangling *haats*

K YHOME AND SUNETRA GHATAK

In the India-Bangladesh borderlands, border *haats* are the lifelines of commerce and kinship. Informally practised for generations, cross-border markets, or border *haats*, were formalised to legitimise and regulate cross-border exchange with a view to improve the livelihoods of border communities on both sides. For border communities, these *haats* have been economic anchors where small-scale vendors could sell locally produced goods directly to customers across the border. These *haats* also served as spaces where cross-border families could continue their shared cultural practices. It represented the human face of bilateral relations, despite periodic diplomatic tensions.

Today, these vital economic and social lifelines face an existential threat, caught in the crossfire of rising fundamentalism and increasingly militarised border security. As fundamentalist forces gain ground in Bangladesh and security concerns escalate, the delicate balance that allowed these markets to flourish is collapsing, and with it, the livelihoods of countless border residents. While Bangladesh has long grappled with various forms of religious extremism, recent developments have witnessed concerning trends. The space for fundamentalist ideologies has expanded, manifesting in attacks on religious minorities, pressure on secular institutions, and growing influence of radical groups in border regions.

This shift has profound implications for border management. Security agencies on both sides have intensified surveillance and enforcement, responding to legitimate concerns about cross-border militancy, arms smuggling, and radicalisation networks. The result is a progressively militarised border regime that treats all cross-border movement with suspicion since August 2024, including the small-scale trade that border haats were designed to facilitate.

The human cost of this deteriorating security environment is staggering. Closure of border *haats* disrupted the income of daily-wage vendors following increasingly dangerous informal networks. The problem extends beyond immediate income loss, where heavy-handed regulation has created opportunities for powerful intermediaries. The middlemen with political connections and border officials capture lucrative segments of cross-border trade.

Small traders, for whom border *haats* were meant to empower, find their margins squeezed as they become dependent on these gatekeepers. These have resulted in corruption and arbitrary fees and erode transparency.

Women traders face particular vulnerabilities. Many border *haats* enabled women to participate in cross-border commerce safely, providing them with independent income and economic agency. As security measures intensify and markets become less predictable, women's participation has declined sharply. The loss extends beyond individual households; it represents a reversal of hard-won progress toward gender equity in these conservative border communities.

Beyond fundamentalism, the border witnesses significant smuggling (cattle and narcotics), human trafficking, and illegal migration. The imperative to control these illicit flows is legitimate and necessary. Rescuing border *haats* needs simplified procedures, such as trader registration systems and safeguards that protect small vendors from predatory intermediaries and maintain robust security for genuinely suspicious activities.

Creating an alternative framework with "light-touch regulation" ensures regular *haats*, targeted security measures, rather than a blanket approach of suspicion.

The current approach of treating border permeability itself as the problem does more harm than benefit. Heavy enforcement indiscriminately targets traders and criminals alike. It pushes *bona fide* trade into informal channels, where it becomes indistinguishable from smuggling, making the security challenge worse rather than better.

The fate of border *haats* is a litmus test for India and Bangladesh as to how they manage their complex relationship in ways that serve ordinary citizens over security imperatives. These markets represent the best of what bilateral cooperation can achieve, where haats restore connection and improve lives in the remotest places.

Allowing the security response to fundamentalism to destroy border *haats* would be a tragic policy failure. It would impoverish thousands of families who have no alternative livelihoods. It would eliminate one of the few spaces where cross-border communities can maintain human connections. And it would validate the narrative of those who seek to divide rather than unite.

The borderlands have always been spaces of exchange, movement, and hybridity. Border *haats* embody borders as opportunities, not barriers. Delhi and Dhaka must demonstrate wisdom to choose facilitation over restriction and human security over militarisation. The policy choice will determine not just the fate of a few markets but the future of an entire border region and the people who call it home.

(Yhome is Senior Fellow and Editor, Asian Confluence, Shillong, Meghalaya, and Sunetra is associate professor of government and public policy, O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Indonesian troops land in East Timor, take capital

Jakarta, December 7
Indonesian troops invaded Portuguese East Timor today and together with pro-Indonesian forces seized the war-torn capital city of Dili. Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik said some 1,000 Indonesian troops were landed from warships today at the invitation of pro-Indonesian forces. The request was to prevent bloodshed. Australian reports said leaders and supporters of the Revolutionary Front for East Timor Fretilin had fled Dili and taken refuge in nearby hills.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Tamil extremist plot thickens, bandit becomes a Brigadier

Chennai, Dec 7
Veerappan has now progressed from a bandit to a "brigadier" commanding two pro-LTTE Tamil extremist outfits, the Tamil Nadu Liberation Army and the Tamil National Retrieval Force, and his domain has extended from Sathyamangalam forests to cyber-space. Log into www.dalitstan.org and you get a sea of information about him, including links to TNLA, and the highly confidential report on nabbing the brigand and his new found extremist gang members.

OASIS | AMBIKA ANANTH

Faith, love, and filial duty

A few scientists doing an experiment offered a boy a handsome sum of money if he would allow himself to be let down by a rope over a cliff in a precipitous mountain gorge. The boy longed for the money, for he was poor, but when he looked down into the two-hundred-foot chasm, he said, "No." After further persuasion he said, "I will go if my father holds the rope." That is "faith". He had confidence in his father; he believed in his father, and by an act of the will, he allowed his father to fasten the rope around him and let him down and earned the money.

Yes, that is the faith children usually have in their parents—but will children take care with the same faith when parents need them in life situations? Yes... Such exemplary children do exist.

In a world where love is often praised but rarely proven, I read about one son who showed what true love for parents really means—when his father's health rapidly declined and doctors declared that only a liver transplant could save him, the young man, without any fear or doubt, stepped forward and offered 65% of his liver, placing his father's life above his own.

The medical procedure was an act of pure, unconditional love. This son has proved that the bonds of love, trust and faith between parents and children are the most powerful and natural attributes. But the other side are those ingrates, the children who believe they are just entitled to enjoy the property but care nothing for parents and neglect them. Shame on them!

A woman who endures the pain of childbirth, which it is said is equivalent to breaking 20 bones, is the mother – and a man who tries to smoothen the roughness of the road his children tread is the father! Only those children who realise their value will not break their hearts by behaving heartlessly and senselessly.

There is an obligation of children to look after and maintain their parents as an unconditional statutory duty under the "Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007", and it is not dependent on whether the child is in possession of, or will inherit, the parent's property. The Court observed that abandonment or neglect of an elderly parent is a punishable act.

NIGHTCLUB BLAZE: Families wait outside morgue as bodies are prepared for transport home

Dreams cut short: 3 J'khand cooks perish in Goa fire

PANAJI, PTI

Three young men from Jharkhand had migrated to Goa a year ago to earn a better living for their families back home and started working as cooks in 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub in north Goa.

In the early hours of Sunday, that dream ended in a horrific tragedy when a devastating inferno raged through the popular facility, leaving Vinod Mahato (19), Pradeep Mahato (24), and Mohit (24) dead along with 22 other persons, most of them staff members.

Distraught Rajiv Sahu, a cousin of Vinod Mahato, is now preparing to make arrangements to transport the mortal remains of the trio back to Jharkhand.

Relatives and friends of the victims, some from Assam, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand, gathered outside the morgue of the Goa Medical College and Hospital, anxiously awaiting information about their loved ones.

Sahu, who works in Ponda town in the coastal state, told reporters that Vinod, Paradeep, and Mohit came to Goa a year ago to work as cooks in the nightclub. "They have families back home in Ranchi. They come from agricultural backgrounds. They came to Goa to earn a better living a year ago," he told reporters, adding that he would transport the three bodies in a flight to Ranchi.

Relatives of the deceased have started making arrangements for carrying the mortal remains back to their native places in Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.

They are probably not aware of the announcement made by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant that the state government will make arrangements for transporting the bodies.

Another victim, Satish Rana (27), originally from Uttarakhand, was working as a chef in the watering hole. His relatives rushed to Goa after learning about the tragedy.

One of the relatives said he has identified the bodies of Rana and three others who hailed from Uttarakhand.

"When I came to know about the incident, I rushed here to identify Rana's body and take it back home for rituals," he said.

Expressing condolences over the three Jharkhand natives who lost their lives in the Goa incident, Health and Disaster Management Minister Irfan Ansari urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide Rs 1 crore compensation to each bereaved family, and urged the Goa government to ensure tourist safety.

Family members of Pradeep Mahto and Vinod Mahto in Ranchi on Sunday. PTI

Police personnel stand guard outside a nightclub following a fire that broke out last midnight, in Goa on Sunday. AFP

25 victims include 20 staff members and five tourists

PANAJI, PTI: All 25 victims killed in the Goa nightclub fire tragedy have been identified, including 20 members of the staff and five tourists, authorities said on Sunday night.

Among the five tourists who died in the inferno, four were from Delhi, including three members of a single family. The fifth tourist was from Karnataka.

The state government released a list of all 25 victims on Sunday night.

A massive fire raged through `Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub at Arpora in the early hours of Sunday, killing 25 people.

The four tourists from Delhi were identified as Saroj Joshi, Anita Joshi, Kamla Joshi, and Vinod Kumar. They were identified on Sunday by their relative Bhavna Joshi.

Another tourist who died in the tragedy is identified as Ishaq from Karnataka. He was identified by his father M D Hussain, the government said.

According to the list, 20 of the victims were staff members of the nightclub, including five from Uttarakhand, four from Nepal, three each from Jharkhand and Assam, two each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and one from West Bengal.

Flames are seen engulfing the nightclub early Sunday, in Arpora, in Goa. AP/PTI

From Uttarakhand

The maximum number of the victims (staff members) are from Uttarakhand, who have been identified as Jitendra Singh, Satish Singh, Surendra Singh, Sumit Negi, and Manish Singh.

The four Nepalese nationals are identified as Churna Bahadur Pun, Vivek Katwal, Sabin, and Sudeep.

Those from Maharashtra include Dominic and Manoj Jora, while Rohan Singh and Sunil Kumar were from Uttar Pradesh. The lone victim from Darjeeling (West Bengal) was identified as Subhash Chetri.

'Criminal failure of safety': Oppn seeks comprehensive probe

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition on Sunday demanded a comprehensive investigation and strict accountability for the "horrific, avoidable tragedy" at a nightclub in Goa that killed 25 people, with top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claiming that it was a criminal failure of safety and governance.

"Deeply pained by the tragic accident" in Arpora, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul said it was "not just an accident" but a "criminal failure of safety and governance".

He demanded a "thorough, transparent probe" to fix accountability and ensure that "such preventable tragedies don't occur again".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, called it an "avoidable, tragic incident" and an "irreparable loss".

"Such tragedies call for a comprehensive investigation, strict accountability, and immediate steps to ensure that all fire safety norms are enforced, so that such devastating incidents are never repeated."

He also appealed to all the Congress workers in the coastal region to extend every possible support and assistance to the affected families and stand with them in this hour of grief.

Senior AAP leader and Goa in-charge Atishi said she was "shocked and pained" to learn about the incident, adding that the Goa government must "swiftly" investigate the "lapses" and "ensure accountability and take stringent action" against those responsible.

CPM General Secretary MA Baby said it was a "horrific, avoidable tragedy", pointing to a "grave lapse" in fire safety enforcement. "A comprehensive investigation must be conducted, accountability fixed, and urgent steps taken to ensure such negligence is never repeated," he added.

MICHAEL LOBO
Goa BJP MLA

"I have come to know that the panchayat issued a license for a restaurant and night club on this premises in 2023. Licence should be based on some documentation which is not there. There was no provisional No Objection Certificate from the pollution control board. Fire licence was given directly.

KAMALA MILLS FIRE, MUMBAI (2017)

- A fire broke out first in 1Above and then spread to Mojo's Bistro restaurant inside the Kamala Mills compound in Lower Parel.
- 14 people died, many from smoke inhalation, and around 55 were injured.
- Triggered by illegal structures, overcrowding, and poor fire compliance.
- Led to major crackdown on fire-safety violations in Mumbai nightlife hubs.

Tezpur varsity students vow non-compliance, intensify protest

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The protest against the Vice Chancellor at Assam's Tezpur University, which began amid the mourning over singer Zubeen Garg's sudden death in September, is now intensifying.

The Tezpur University United Forum (TUUF), a collective of students, teachers and staff at the central university, on Sunday resolved to pursue "complete non-compliance and non-cooperation" until the Centre takes concrete steps to remove Shambhu Nath Singh, who has been absent for 79 days.

The decision came despite assurances from a Union Education Ministry (MoE) team that an inquiry would be initiated and Singh would be kept away from the administration. "Students view this as a preliminary step but emphasise that the protest will continue until an official notification is issued and concrete action follows," TUUF said in a statement on Sunday.

The assurance, according to students, was given in writing by a team led by Saumya Gupta, joint secretary in the Department of Higher Education, MoE, which visited the campus on Saturday.

The students and staff have been demanding Singh's removal, alleging mismanagement and corruption.

On November 29, the situation worsened when students "shut down" the university for an indefinite period.

IndiGo processes Rs 610 cr refund, delivers 3k baggage pieces

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Beleaguered airline IndiGo has processed refunds totalling Rs 610 crore so far while its flight schedules are moving back towards normal levels, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Sunday.

It also said IndiGo has successfully delivered 3,000 pieces of baggage to passengers across India as of Saturday. The Ministry had instructed it to trace and deliver all baggage separated from passengers due to disruptions within 48 hours.

Airport Directors from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Goa have confirmed normal conditions across terminals during the day, while passenger movement remains smooth with no crowding at check-in, security, or boarding points, it said.

IndiGo's flight operations have reported a steady increase — from 706 flights on Friday to 1,565 on Saturday, and it was all set to touch 1,650 on Sunday. All other domestic airlines are operating smoothly.

The Ministry said it had issued strict directives to IndiGo requiring that all refunds for cancelled or severely delayed flights be completed by Sunday, 8 pm, and so far, it has processed refunds totalling Rs 610 crore.

10 Naxals with total bounty of Rs 2.36 crore surrender in MP

BALAGHAT (MP), PTI: Ten hardcore Naxalites, including four women, carrying a collective bounty of Rs 2.36 crore on their heads, surrendered in Balaghat on Sunday, prompting CM Mohan Yadav to declare Dindori and Mandla completely free from the Naxal influence.

The surrendered Naxalits laid down modern weapons, including AK-47 and INSAS rifles, in front of Yadav. They were part of the 'Bhorsadev area committee' of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), officials said.

Parl panel may summon IndiGo, DGCA officials

It will also seek explanation on surge in airfares during the flight fiasco

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture is likely to summon senior officials of domestic airlines and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) following the IndiGo fiasco to ascertain how the situation spiralled into a crisis.

The panel, headed by senior JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha, is expected to seek an explanation from the top executives of the airline as well as officials from the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA.

The committee will also reportedly seek explanations on the surge in airfares during the period.

The multi-party panel is also expected to ask the ministry and the regulator to explain the measures they have taken to ease the troubles of passengers inconvenienced by the sudden and unannounced cancellation of IndiGo flights.

The Opposition levelled allegations of monopolistic tendencies in the civil aviation sector.

The IndiGo crisis was raised in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, highlighting the troubles people faced.

The DGCA has sent notices to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and COO and Accountable Manager Porqueras, seeking an explanation for what precipitated.

'Financial proximity'

The Congress on Saturday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of "ease of air travel" had given way to "cease of air travel", while also asking whether the Union government was showing "extraordinary leniency" to IndiGo because of the BJP's "financial proximity" to the airline and its promoter, who donated to the ruling party through electoral bonds.

CPM Rajya Sabha floor leader John Brittas also shot off a letter to Modi, urging him to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee or a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate regulatory failures, airline preparedness, dilution of safety norms, and fare-escalation patterns, among others, related to the IndiGo fiasco.

With statehood stuck, Omar invokes security lapses to push Centre

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah appears to be recalibrating his strategy with New Delhi.

After spending his first year in office pressing relentlessly — but unsuccessfully — for the restoration of statehood, he is now invoking the year's security setbacks to argue that the Union Territory (UT) governance model has "completely failed" Kashmir's needs.

His remarks at an event indicate a deliberate shift: If political persuasion has not worked, framing statehood as a security necessity might.

Speaking in New Delhi, Omar said that the UT structure "is not suitable for Jammu and Kashmir", insisting that governance and security "cannot operate in silos". Pointing to a series of high-impact attacks this year — the Pahalgam attack and the Red Fort blast allegedly linked to a conspiracy hatched in J&K — he described 2025 as "a difficult one from the security paradigm".

He did not connect these attacks operationally, but referred to them collectively to underline his argument that an elected government cannot be distanced from security decisions. "You can't have an elected government that is completely removed from security-related decisions," he said, arguing that the UT model has weakened coordination between civilian officials and security agencies. This marks a shift from his earlier rhetoric. Soon after taking office in 2024, he asserted that restoring statehood would "resolve most of J&K's problems".

But on October 28, 2025, for the first time since assuming office, he acknowledged that his optimism about New Delhi's intent was fading. With the Centre refusing to commit to timelines, his tone has hardened — and widened to include a critique of the UT's institutional shortcomings.

Political analyst Prof Gul Mohammad Wani sees Omar's shift as calculated rather than reactive. "By foregrounding security lapses, Omar Abdullah is trying to convert a political demand into a national-security argument," Wani told *DH*. "He is telling New Delhi that stability in Kashmir cannot be ensured through bureaucratic centralisation," he added.

Omar's assertion that "home-grown terrorism never really went away" also challenges the Centre's narrative that militancy has been structurally dismantled since the abrogation of Article 370.

Omar Abdullah

SHIFTING GROUND

- Chief Minister Omar shifts from persuasion to security narrative with New Delhi
- Says governance and security "cannot operate in silos"
- Analysts see strategy in reframing demand as a national security issue

Vikram Bhatt, wife held for cheating Raj doc of Rs 30 crore

MUMBAI, PTI: The Udaipur police on Sunday arrested popular filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his wife from Mumbai in a Rs 30 crore cheating case registered in Rajasthan, an official said.

Rajasthan Police will apply for their transit remand in Bandra court on Monday, the Mumbai police official added.

Bhatt, his wife Shwetambari Bhatt, and six others are accused of defrauding Udaipur-based Dr Ajay Murdia of Rs 30 crore, the official added. Two people have been arrested in the case earlier, he said.

"Murdia, owner of Indira IVF Hospital, wanted to make a biopic on his late wife. He has alleged that he was promised earnings of Rs 200 crore. But nothing materialised, after which Murdia approached police station in Udaipur, where an FIR was registered for cheating," the official said.

New rule to discourage hotels from storing customers' Aadhaar cards

NEW DELHI, PTI: A new rule to discourage entities like hotels, event organisers, etc, from taking a photocopy of Aadhaar cards of customers and storing them in physical form will be published soon, a senior government official said.

Such practices are in contravention of the present Aadhaar Act. The UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar said that the authority has approved a new rule mandating registration of entities that seek Aadhaar-based verification, like hotels, event organisers, etc, to provide them access to a new technology that will enable them to verify an individual by scanning a QR code or connecting with the new Aadhaar app in the works, the top official said.

"The objective is to discourage paper-based Aadhaar verification," Kumar said.

Verdict in actor sex assault case today

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

After nearly nine years of twists and turns, the verdict in the case relating to the abduction and sexual assault of a popular actor in the south — allegedly orchestrated by a gang hired by actor Dileep — is set to be pronounced by the trial court in Kochi on Monday.

Dileep, the eighth accused, faces trial in a case that shocked Kerala and triggered major repercussions in the Malayalam film industry, including the formation of the Justice Hema Committee to examine problems faced by women in cinema and the creation of the Women in Cinema Collective by leading female film personalities.

The investigation and trial faced several hurdles, with 28 witnesses — including prominent film personalities — turning hostile and two special prosecutors stepping down.

On February 17, 2017, the actor was abducted and sexually assaulted in a moving car by a gang led by the key accused, Sunil alias Pulsar Suni. She lodged a complaint the following day, and within weeks, all the gang members were arrested.

Rumours over Dileep's involvement swirled from the very outset, further fuelled by his ex-wife Manju Warrier, who expressed solidarity with the survivor and alleged a criminal conspiracy behind the attack.

When incriminating evidence later linked him to the gang, police arraigned Dileep and arrested him in July 2017. He spent nearly three months in prison before securing bail.

The prosecution says that Dileep hired the gang to attack the actor after she informed Manju Warrier about his relationship with another actor, Kavya Madhavan. Dileep and Manju later divorced, and he went on to marry Kavya, who herself had separated from her first husband.

The trial, which began in March 2018, dragged on through several twists and turns, the most crucial being film director Balachandra Kumar's statement that Dileep was in possession of the video recording of the assault. A fresh case of conspiracy to murder the police official investigating the matter was also registered against Dileep, based on Kumar's revelations.

The verdict will not only decide the course of Dileep's career but also carry significance, serving as a message on women's safety, given that both the survivor and the accused are prominent film personalities.

Dileep

HIGH-PROFILE KERALA CASE

- Actress was abducted and sexually assaulted in a moving car in Feb 2017
- Dileep faces charges of hiring a gang to assault her
- Trial faced many hurdles, with 28 witnesses turning hostile
- Director alleged Dileep had assault video
- Conspiracy to murder investigating officer registered against Dileep

THAT'S THE WAY

Hyderabad road to be named after Trump

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Telangana government has decided to name the upcoming greenfield radial road connecting the Nehru Outer Ring Road at Raviryal with the proposed Radial Ring Road (RRR) after Padma Bhushan Ratan Tata, with the interchange at Raviryal already named the "Tata Interchange".

According to another proposal, a road would be named after the 45th and 47th President of the United States, Donald Trump.

The high-profile road along the US Consulate General building in Hyderabad's Financial District of Nanakramguda is set to be called "Donald Trump Avenue".

Sources said the Telangana government would write to the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the US Embassy informing them about the plans.

The plan

Earlier this year, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, while addressing the annual US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) conclave in Delhi, proposed naming important roads in Hyderabad after leading global corporations.

It has also been reportedly decided to name a prominent stretch the "Google Street", recognising the global impact and contribution of Google Maps and the corporation at large.

The road along its upcoming campus — set to be Google's largest campus outside the US — at Hyderabad's Financial District will be recognised.

Microsoft and Wipro are also likely to get a similar recognition on the city's topography with a Wipro Junction and a Microsoft Road.

The state government is considering dedicating some more roads to honour distinguished individuals and corporations.

Vijayan confirms meeting with Jamaat-e-Islami leaders

KOZHIKODE (KERALA), PTI: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who has been frequently criticising the Muslim organisation Jamaat-e-Islami, said on Sunday that he had earlier met its leaders at their request.

Pinarayi Vijayan

Speaking to reporters here, Vijayan confirmed the meeting and said it took place at the CPM state committee office. "They asked for an opportunity to meet me, so they came to the CPM state committee office. But I did not give them any good certificate during the meeting," Vijayan said.

According to the CM, the Jamaat-e-Islami leaders spent the entire meeting trying to clarify their stance.

He said leaders of the Solidarity Youth Movement were also present during the interaction. "When they introduced the Solidarity leader, I told them to their face that they are the biggest antisocial elements now," he said.

Govt, Oppn brace for showdown as Parliament set for heated debates

Modi, Rahul & Kharge to lead discussions on Vande Mataram, electoral reforms

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The ruling BJP and the Opposition, led by the Congress, are all set to lock horns in Parliament this week as MPs cutting across party lines participate in special debates on the national song 'Vande Mataram' and electoral reforms.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and other leaders such as Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Akhilesh Yadav and Kanimozhi are expected to speak in at least one of the debates.

The 'Discussion on the 150th Anniversary of National Song Vande Mataram' will begin in the Lok Sabha on Monday at noon, with Prime Minister Modi initiating the debate.

The Congress will be represented by its deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi and lawmaker Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The Vande Mataram debate in the Rajya Sabha will take place on Tuesday, with Shah opening the proceedings. The Lok Sabha will begin its discussion on electoral reforms the same day.

According to sources, a BJP MP will be the last speaker on the Vande Mataram debate, while Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal is expected to reply to the discussions on electoral reforms in both Houses.

The electoral reforms debate in the Lok Sabha is likely to conclude on Wednesday.

The BJP is likely to field senior leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in one of the debates. Congress sources said the party will be represented in the Vande Mataram debate by Deepender Hooda, A Bimol Akoijam, Praniti Shinde, Prashant Padole, Chamala Reddy and Jyotsana Mahant.

HOUSE AGENDA

- Lok Sabha debate on Vande Mataram begins Monday and allocated 10 hours for the disussion; PM to initiate
- Rajya Sabha debate on Vande Mataram set for Tuesday; Shah to open
- Electoral reforms debate in Lok Sabha starts Tuesday, likely to conclude Wednesday
- Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal to reply on electoral reforms in both Houses
- BJP may field Rajnath Singh; Cong to field Gogoi, Priyanka, Hooda, Akoijam

Contentious views on Vande Mataram and electoral reforms are expected to spark heated arguments in the House. The Opposition is set to raise the issue of vote theft, with the Election Commission likely to face intense scrutiny over the conduct of elections.

Modi has already set the stage for confrontation by accusing the Congress of deliberately avoiding the full rendition of Vande Mataram to appease a section of society. The Congress, in turn, has alleged that Modi is distorting facts, citing a letter by Rabindranath Tagore in which he suggested that only the first two stanzas be adopted, as the subsequent verses may have communal overtones.

All eyes will be on Rahul's speech on electoral reforms, as he has launched a campaign against 'vote chori'. He has accused the EC of aiding the BJP in winning the Haryana and Lok Sabha elections through the manipulation of electoral rolls.

The electoral reforms debate will also see Opposition MPs raising concerns over the SIR and the deaths of Booth Level Officers involved in the exercise. The BJP may highlight the need for 'One Nation, One Election'.

The debates were listed after intense negotiations between the ruling BJP and the Opposition after the latter insisted on a debate on the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral reforms.

Maharashtra to see first-ever Winter Session without Leader of Opposition

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

For the first time in the history of Maharashtra, the Winter session of the state legislature will commence without a Leader of the Opposition (LoP) — either in the Assembly or the Council.

This is an issue that has given the Opposition alliance, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), ammunition to use against the Devendra Fadnavis-headed BJP-led Maha Yuti government, which came into power a year ago.

On the eve of the session on Sunday, the Opposition boycotted the customary tea meeting hosted by the chief minister and slammed the government over multiple issues, including agrarian distress and farmers' suicide.

As for the absence of the LoPs, the depleted strength of the MVA after the 2024 Assembly polls rendered it unable to secure the post in the House. Despite this, it has made a representation to Speaker Rahul Narwekar and Fadnavis on the matter. The Shiv Sena (UBT) is said to be keen for the post.

On the other hand, Legislative Council LoP Ambadas Danve's tenure ended after the Monsoon session.

The Congress has staked a claim for the post, and the MVA has submitted letters to Legislative Council Chairman Prof Ram Shinde.

"The government does not want LoPs," claimed Congress Legislative Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar, adding that there are precedents of appointing the LoP in the Assembly despite the Opposition benches not having the strength.

Wadettiwar, a two-time LoP, also slammed Fadnavis and his deputies Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar over the issue.

A party needs to have won 10% of the seats in the Assembly to claim the post of LoP in the House. That comes to 29 seats in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly.

None of the three MVA constituents — the Congress and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), with 16 each, and the Sharad Pawar-headed NCP (SP) with 10 seats — commands that number individually.

The LoP's post cannot be secured based on the combined strength of the Opposition parties, as per the Constitution and parliamentary and legislative norms.

On the other hand, the Congress has staked its claim to the post in the Legislative Council, with its MLC Satej Patil tipped to occupy the position. "We have received the proposal (of the opposition)... The decision will be taken at an appropriate time," said Prof Shinde.

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS
Maharashtra Chief Minister

"The Opposition's press conference appeared full of frustration and theatrics. It is not the government's role to announce the Leader of Opposition. Only the Speaker and the Council Chairman have the authority to do so.

VIJAY WADETTIWAR
Congress leader

"There are no LoPs in both the houses. Both these are constitutional posts. By keeping both posts vacant, the government has shown that it does not trust the Constitution. So we have boycotted the tea programme.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

HOW DID YOUR BAND GIG GO?
IT WAS INCREDIBLE, DAD!!!
WE EVEN GOT WRITTEN UP BY IRV NEEDLEMAN, THE MUSIC CRITIC!
WOW! WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE RATED OUR SUBWOOFERS 3 OUT OF 10 ON THE RICHTER SCALE!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

IT'S MATCH POINT, AND YOU STAND THERE LOOKING AT A LETTER FROM YOUR STUPID BROTHER!
NO WONDER YOU GOT ACED!
NOW WE HAVE TO GO AND CONGRATULATE "CRYBABY" BOOBIE! THIS IS GONNA KILL ME!
NICE MATCH, GUYS! LA DE DA DE DA DE DA

Marvin

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MRFEA

ERLDE

AGHTTU

GHNLTE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Yes! I am.
Not so fast. I need a bite of dessert.
I'm done. Are we ready to go?
Great thought! Just one more bite.
5/29
THEY WOULD LEAVE THE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET WHEN EVERYONE WAS IN ---
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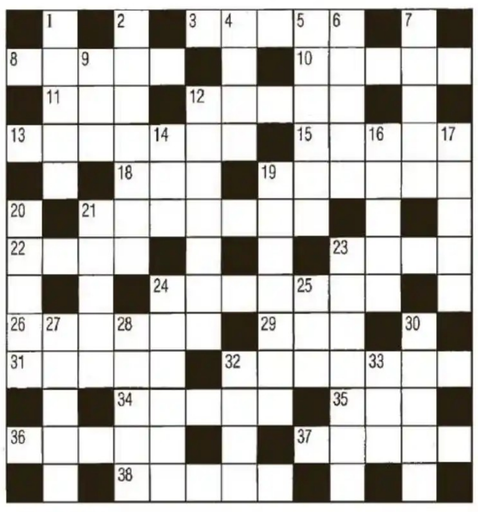
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GRAND HITCH WEIGHT MENACE
Answer: The thief was caught with stolen credit cards in his possession, so they — CHARGED HIM

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12304



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Perfect part for Adeline to play (5)
8 Make mounting progress? (3,2)
10 Dashed forward and raised the flag (3,2)
11 Tease a bit horribly? (3)
12 Discovers no surplus of all-rounders (5)
13 What the family share in their own joint (7)
15 The advantage you have when determined (5)
18 A noticeable twitchiness (3)
19 Like granny's problem perhaps? (6)
21 Deity who had a way with soft music (7)
22 Being indigent is no good (4)
23 Anxious to know about England's capital (4)
24 Say tata in a murmur? (7)
26 Nice clean new seat at church (6)
29 A legend afoot? (3)
31 Ida's impression of a duck (5)
32 Heady edifices? (7)
34 The boys used a stopwatch (5)
35 Outboard propeller (3)
36 Being sober, said to consume only a little tea! (5)
37 Beetle-like vehicle? (5)
38 Amphibians with modern, non-standard parts (5)

DOWN
1 The value of keeping a key part in trim, perhaps (5)
2 In a terrible storm, be one of the gang (7)
4 Doctor one patient, initially, with a transfusion (4)
5 Are out of a tin, though it's not obvious (6)
6 Ensnare a girl with love (5)
7 What the piano means to a player (5)
9 An element is just a tiny piece (3)
12 Give the writer no choice (7)
14 A trendy joint (3)
16 Keep on the road (5)
17 Linking a tiny disorder with middle age (5)
19 Like the broken leg of a jumper, say? (7)
20 Room for a rocket (5)
21 Return of Damon, the wanderer (5)
23 An exclusive notice (4,3)
24 Walk about a yard (6)
25 Is he catty? (3)
27 Suggests it's hot in the outskirts of Tunis (5)
28 Get established as a stein maker (3,2)
30 A border in silver, generally (5)
32 Temporary cover (4)
33 Can he never be advanced as an honest citizen? (3)

ACROSS
3 Top of the milk (5)
8 Sublime (5)
10 Construct (5)
11 Express disapproval (3)
12 Ultimate, last (5)
13 Very bad (7)
15 Stop (5)
18 Was seated (3)
19 Cleaning cloth (6)
21 Reasons (7)
22 Dutch cheese (4)
23 Fish type (4)
24 Arm bone (7)
26 Organ of taste (6)
29 Rodent (3)
31 Vapour of boiling water (5)
32 Cough medicine (7)
34 Manservant (5)
35 Sing with closed lips (3)
36 Girl's name (5)
7 Start (5)
38 Minimum (5)

DOWN
1 Pastime (5)
2 Bloom (7)
4 Complain bitterly (4)
5 Counting frame (6)
6 Backless shoes (5)
7 Shut (5)
9 Young male (3)
12 Exhaustion (7)
14 Floor covering (3)
16 Book of maps (5)
17 Rub out (5)
19 Fault, disadvantage (7)
20 Defeats (5)
21 American state (5)
23 Meat retailer (7)
24 Kind, sympathetic (6)
25 Managed (3)
27 Freshwater mammal (5)
28 Auctioneer's hammer (5)
30 Hot and sticky (5)
32 Limbs (4)
33 Towboat (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2657

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Old hat, 4 Shackled, 9 Cowboy, 10 Let alone, 12 Actually, 13 Siesta, 15 Doom, 16 Deepseated,1 9 Upstanding, 20 Skit, 23 Redeem, 25 Tell-tale, 27 Infra dig, 28 Manila, 29 Elements, 30 Measly.

DOWN: 1 Orchard, 2 Down tools, 3 Anorak, 5 Heed, 6 Clarinet, 7 Looks, 8 Diehard, 11 Already, 14 Spaniel, 17 Take amiss, 18 Save face, 19 Ukraine, 21 Therapy, 22 Please, 24 Defoe, 26 Hint.

◆SU-DO-KU-6771◆

	5			8		6		
7			2		6		5	
			3				4	8
	3	6				2		
1								4
		9				7	3	
9	6				2			
	8		5		3			6
		3		6			1	

very hard

1	6	5	4	3	2	7	8	9
3	8	7	1	9	5	6	4	2
2	4	9	7	6	8	5	3	1
9	7	6	2	5	3	8	1	4
4	3	1	8	7	9	2	5	6
5	2	8	6	1	4	3	9	7
8	1	4	3	2	7	9	6	5
6	5	2	9	8	1	4	7	3
7	9	3	5	4	6	1	2	8

SOLUTION TO 6770

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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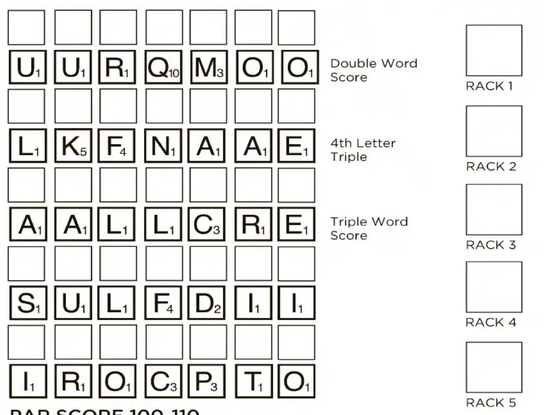
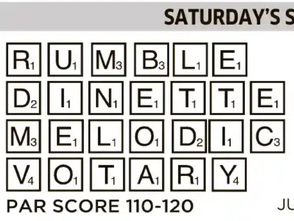

U1 U1 R1 Q10 M3 O1 O1 Double Word Score
L1 K5 F4 N1 A1 A1 E1 4th Letter Triple
A1 A1 L1 L1 C3 R1 E1 Triple Word Score
S1 U1 L1 F4 D2 I1 I1
I1 R1 O1 C3 P3 T1 O1
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4
RACK 5

PAR SCORE 100-110
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION



RACK 1 = 10
RACK 2 = 74
RACK 3 = 62
RACK 4 = 20
JUDD'S TOTAL 166

PAR SCORE 110-120

HITORI-3225

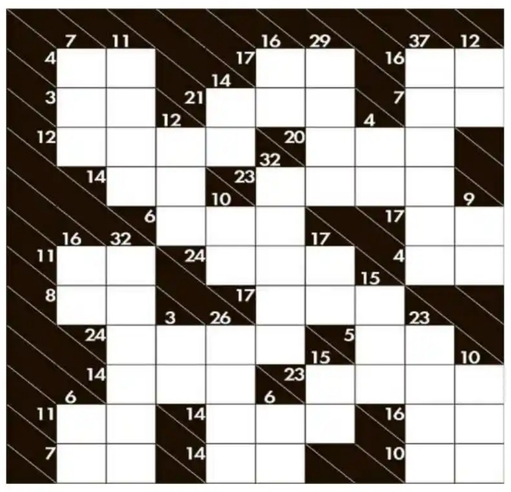
7	4	5	1	4	6	2	7
5	7	4	8	6	4	2	1
8	3	6	4	7	2	5	4
7	4	7	2	1	4	8	6
2	1	4	3	5	7	4	4
6	4	4	4	8	1	3	7
3	8	1	7	5	5	4	2
4	4	2	4	5	8	1	4

SOLUTION TO 3224

3	■	2	■	4	1	■	7
5	3	8	6	■	4	7	2
■	7	■	8	2	5	■	1
7	■	1	3	■	8	2	6
4	2	6	■	8	7	3	■
■	6	3	7	■	2	■	8
2	1	7	■	5	3	6	4
■	4	■	5	1	■	8	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

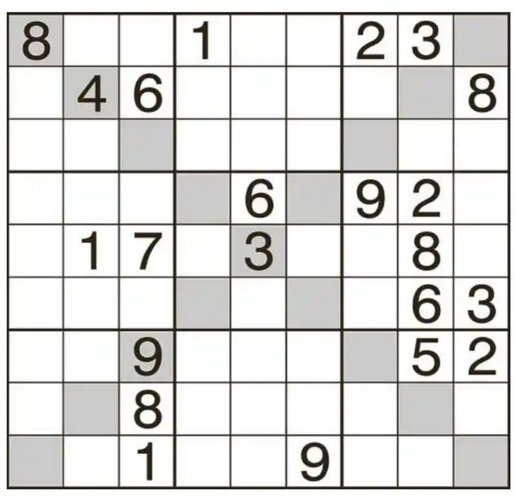
KAKURO- 3225



SOLUTION TO 3224

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3759



SOLUTION TO 3758

5	1	4	8	2	7	9	3	6
9	6	7	4	5	3	1	2	8
8	2	3	1	6	9	7	4	5
1	7	5	2	4	8	3	6	9
3	4	2	7	9	6	8	5	1
6	9	8	5	3	1	2	7	4
2	8	1	6	7	5	4	9	3
7	3	6	9	1	4	5	8	2
4	5	9	3	8	2	6	1	7

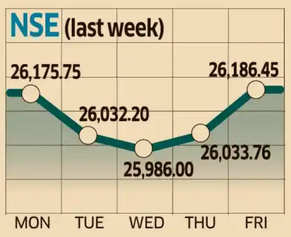
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

BSE (last week)

*Data as of Dec 5

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
INFY	3.61%	ETERNAL	-2.58%
TECHM	3.49%	TITAN	-2.42%
HCLTECH	2.39%	HINDUNILVR	-1.75%
ASIANPAINT	3.26%	RELIANCE	-1.66%
TCS	3.16%	TRENT	-1.45%

NSE (last week)



TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
WIPRO	4.16%	HINDUNILVR	-5.19%
HCLTECH	3.62%	ETERNAL	-2.57%
INFOSYS L	3.60%	TITAN CO	-2.42%
TECH MAH	3.53%	APOLLO HOSP	-1.99%
ASIAN PAINTS	3.27%	RELIANCE INDS	-1.72%

Sensex (52-week)

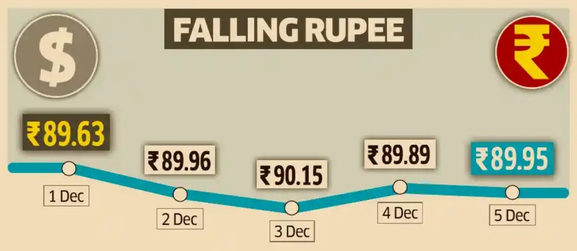
Dec 5, 2024: 81,765.86 → Dec 5, 2025: 85,712.37 — 4.83%

Nifty (52-week)

Dec 5, 2024: 24,708.40 → Dec 5, 2025: 26,186.45 — 5.98%

10-year Bond yield 6.50%

FALLING RUPEE



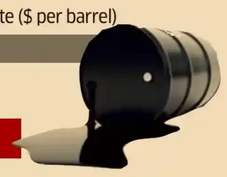
Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹89.95	SGD	₹69.21
Pound	₹120.00	Yen (100 units)	₹58.15
Euro	₹104.82		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$63.75*
0.23%
*Rate as of Dec 5



Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹-0.10%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹-0.10%

*Rates as of Dec 6 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹27250 - 28000
Arabica Cherry	₹13300 - 15700
Robusta Parchment	₹17500 - 18000
Robusta Cherry	₹10400 - 11250

*Rates as on Dec 3

Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹775
Cross Breed (CB)	₹638

*Average rates as on Dec 5

Evolution of a blockchain, crypto & Web3 ecosystem

Experts cite that India maintains a cautious regulatory stance toward Web3

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

From Web3 developers to crypto exchanges, crypto investors and founders, all enthusiasts gathered at the India Blockchain Week (IBW) conference held last week in Bengaluru. The energy was electric as experts spoke about the crypto ecosystem, the link between robotics and stablecoins, and the country's path towards a stable regulatory network. Let's deep dive into Web3 ecosystem:

Web3 and Blockchain

While Web 1.0 was 'read-only' internet (users could only read information) and Web 2.0 was interactive (users can create as well as share content), Web3 is the concept that focuses on decentralisation, user ownership and blockchain technology.

"Blockchain has proven to change the way almost every industry functions. At its core, Web3 aims to give people more control over their data and digital assets, reducing dependence on large centralised platforms," Mudrex CEO Edul Patel said.

Based in Bengaluru, Mudrex is a crypto buying, trading and investment platform. He also added that in the future, we can expect Web3 to power new forms of digital identity, smarter financial systems, and global payments that are faster and cheaper. For businesses, blockchain will make processes more efficient, especially in areas like supply-chain, contracts, and record-keeping.

Where does India stand when it comes to Web3?

India has strengthened its role as a Web3 hub this year as Hashed Emergent, the venture capital arm of Hashed, pointed out at the IBW conference that the first ten months of 2025 saw $653 million in funds raised by Web3 startups across 45 deals. This is up 16% over the entire funding raised in 2024.

Hashed Emergent invests at the earliest stages of Web3 startups and in its report India Web3 Landscape 2025, it said the surge in funding was led by international funds with tailwinds including favourable global regulations and major improvements in underlying technology enabling viability of Web3 solutions. Also, the country leads in Web3 wallet usage, and Hashed Emergent pointed out that this is a strong indication of on-chain activity.

It said that the country has vast potential for stablecoin adoption and can learn from global peers in blockchain and stablecoin regulations. Stablecoin, a type of cryptocurrency, is designed with an aim to keep its value fixed.

But the country maintains a cautious regulatory stance toward Web3, and that there is no crypto law or regulator.

Hashed Emergent CEO and Managing partner Tak Lee said that one in five Web3 developers worldwide is Indian. Almost all of them incorporate their companies abroad, because they can't access proper fundraising structures here.

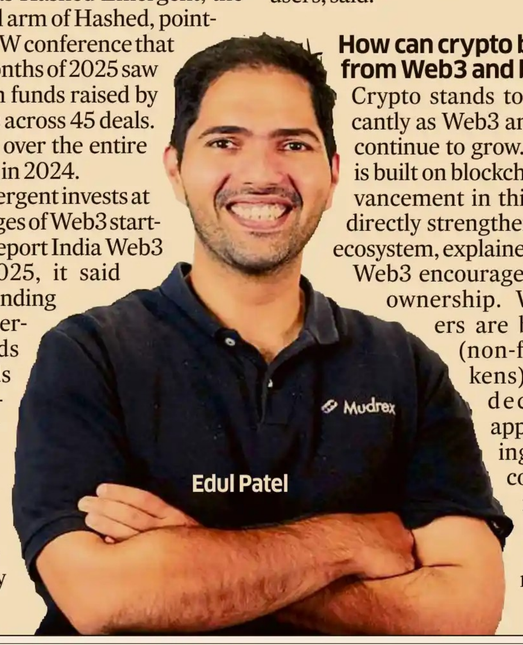
Indian VCs have over $20 billion in unallocated capital, but less than 1% goes to Web3.

The report pointed out that tokenised securities and stablecoins have not made a mark due to legal grey hairs.

Crypto exchange CoinDCX in its recent report said 2025 was the breakout year for tokenised real-world assets (RWAs), where traditional finance and blockchain converged.

It said BlackRock, Franklin Templeton and Hamilton Lane launched tokenised fund units on Ethereum and Stellar, crossing $15 billion in combined value.

CoinDCX noted that India can draw from global regulatory progress to build a stronger and more resilient digital asset ecosystem. "A unified regulatory framework could streamline oversight, reduce ambiguity and provide clarity for retail users, institutions, and exchanges," the crypto exchange, which has over 2 crore users, said.



How can crypto benefit from Web3 and blockchain?

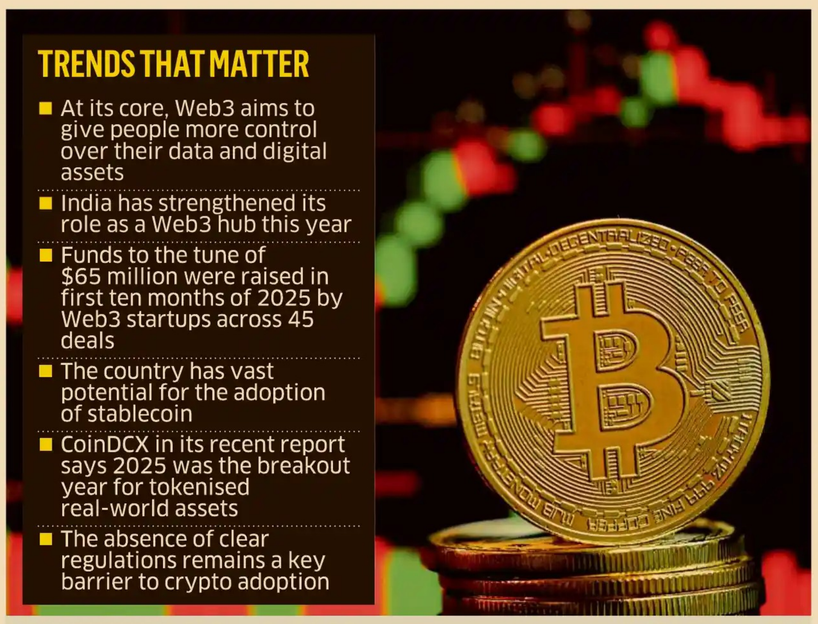
Crypto stands to gain significantly as Web3 and blockchain continue to grow. Since crypto is built on blockchain, every advancement in this technology directly strengthens the crypto ecosystem, explained Patel.

Web3 encourages true digital ownership. Whether users are buying NFTs (non-fungible tokens), accessing decentralised apps, or interacting with smart contracts, they need crypto to participate. This naturally expands the user base. Additionally, crypto enables fast, low-cost, global payments aligned with Web3's borderless nature. As Web3 services scale globally, demand for crypto as a payment and settlement layer will grow, he further said.

The absence of clear regulations remains a key barrier to crypto adoption. "While global markets are moving faster, India still has ground to cover. With India contributing to over 17% of the world's Web3 talent, we need policies that attract this talent back home and enable them to build global products from here. Supportive measures like R&D incentives, regulatory sandboxes, and innovation-focused funding will help India stay competitive in this rapidly evolving space," Patel added.

TRENDS THAT MATTER

- At its core, Web3 aims to give people more control over their data and digital assets
- India has strengthened its role as a Web3 hub this year
- Funds to the tune of $65 million were raised in first ten months of 2025 by Web3 startups across 45 deals
- The country has vast potential for the adoption of stablecoin
- CoinDCX in its recent report says 2025 was the breakout year for tokenised real-world assets
- The absence of clear regulations remains a key barrier to crypto adoption



'20-30% of global developers working on Web3 are Indians'

India is home to over 1,200 Web3 startups, and the country has immense potential and talent to grow in Web3. In an interaction with *DH* on the sidelines of the IBW conference, Binance APAC Head SB Seker said up to 20-30% of global developers working on Web3 are Indians. "But they are all working for foreign companies. So it is a missed opportunity from a labour participation perspective," he said.

If you take factor inputs from an economic perspective that goes into building a company or a country, it requires labour, capital and technology. "Capital and technology will go anywhere where they have a red carpet. Talent used to be the one thing that you couldn't move cross-border easily. You had to get a visa. That's not the case anymore because the Web3 space is inherently remote-working," he said, adding that it is a missed opportunity from a labour perspective for India.

"Crypto is still small in the scheme of things. We have cleared $150 trillion worth of transactions in the last few years. But it's a drop in the ocean compared to the banking, mining or commodity sectors. Certainly, the government doesn't treat it as a high priority, but it could be a vertical of business in any country," he said.

When asked about the crypto investors' mindset, he said crypto has moved from being speculative to becoming a component of long-term portfolio management.

"There will always be fringe people who day trade from a purely speculative perspective, but I think we've kind of maxed out that segment. As far as institutional adoption is concerned, they're not interested in speculation for the most part," he said.

He added that they're interested in looking at this asset class, looking at the correlation between this asset class and every other asset class. "And so if it brings down the net risk of a portfolio, because it's inversely correlated, they'll bring it on. We're seeing maturity across all customer segments, which is usually the case when something's been around for 10 years. I think that's basically the state of the investors mind," he further added.

Talking about blockchain, Binance Head of APAC said, globally, we'll move very rapidly into a model where stablecoins will displace large parts of the traditional setup.

He also said that tokenisation of real-world assets will take off and that will start with land.

"We'll see a lot more institutional adoption of crypto for sure. That's starting to accelerate. Whether these trends reflect in India depends on the government policy," he added.

Biocon to merge biologics unit with itself; to raise Rs 4,500 cr

To acquire residual stake held by Mylan Inc

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Biopharmaceuticals major Biocon is fully integrating Biocon Biologics Limited as a wholly-owned subsidiary into itself, subject to approvals. The company is constituting a Governance Council chaired by Biocon Limited Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and a transition and integration committee, led by Shreehas Tambe, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Biocon Biologics Limited, to ensure seamless integration.

The Strategy Committee, constituted in May 2025, undertook a comprehensive evaluation of multiple strategic options for Biocon Biologics Limited, including an IPO and a merger with Biocon Limited, Biocon said in a statement.

After careful consideration of key parameters such as strategic alignment, sectoral dynamics, shareholder value creation, and other relevant data, the committee concluded that full integration of Biocon Biologics Limited with Biocon Limited, and making Biocon Biologics Limited a wholly-owned subsidiary of Biocon Limited through the acquisition of minority stakes, offers the most efficient and value-accretive path forward.

Under the proposed transaction, Biocon Limited will acquire the remaining stake in Biocon Biologics Limited from Serum Institute Life Sciences (Serum), Tata Capital Growth Fund II (Tata Capital) and Activ Pine LLP (Activ Pine) through a share swap of 70.28 Biocon shares for every 100 Biocon Biologics shares, at a share price of Rs 405.78 per Biocon share; valuing Biocon Biologics Limited at $5.5 billion.

Further, Biocon will acquire the residual stake held by Mylan Inc (Viatris) for a total consideration of $815 million, of which $400 million will be payable in cash, and $415 million through a share swap of 61.70 Biocon shares for every 100 Biocon Biologics shares at a share price of Rs 405.78 per Biocon share.

The swap ratios have been approved by the Board based on independent valuations by EY.

To raise additional capital

The Board has also approved raising additional capital, of up to Rs 4,500 crore ($500 million) through QIP, subject to shareholder approval. The proceeds of the QIP will be largely utilised towards the cash component payable to Viatris.

The integration process is expected to be completed no later than March 31, 2026.

Siddharth Mittal and Shreehas Tambe will continue in their roles as CEO & Managing Director at Biocon Limited and Biocon Biologics Limited, respectively, until completion of the integration process.

Post the integration and upon execution of the necessary documentation, receipt of approvals from the Nomination & Remuneration Committee and the Board, Tambe will take on the role of CEO & Managing Director and Kedar Upadhye the role of Chief Financial Officer of the combined business. Mittal, CEO & Managing Director, Biocon Limited, will transition into a leadership role within the Group.

"The integration of Biocon Biologics Limited into Biocon Limited represents the next chapter in our evolution. Strategically, Biocon will be one of the few companies offering both biosimilars and generics at a global scale. As the only company with biosimilar insulins and generic GLP1 peptides, Biocon is uniquely positioned to comprehensively address the needs of patients living with diabetes," Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said.

Wakefit raises Rs 186 crore, ahead of IPO

NEW DELHI, PTI: Home and furnishings company Wakefit Innovations Ltd has mobilised Rs 186 crore from three investors, Steadview Capital, WhiteOak Capital, InfoEdge and Temasek-backed Capital 2B, ahead of its initial share-sale opening for public subscription.

As a part of the transaction, Steadview Capital Mauritius, WhiteOak Capital and Capital 2B collectively purchased 95.57 lakh equity shares at Rs 195 apiece, according to a public announcement by Wakefit.

Individually, Steadview Capital picked up shares worth Rs 101 crore, WhiteOak invested Rs 72 crore, and Capital 2B infused Rs 13 crore. These shares were purchased from Peak XV Partners, Redwood Trust and Verlinvest SA, and secondary share transfers were completed on December 3 and 4.

INDIGO FIASCO

How India's top airline unravelled in quest for higher profit

BLOOMBERG

It was the straw that broke the highly-optimised camel's back. Sometime in the evening of December 2, three days before India's largest airline would lose control of its operations in one of the country's worst aviation disruptions, IndiGo executives noticed that a technology glitch in its check-in system was delaying late-night flights.

This in turn was affecting a pilot duty roster recently fine-tuned to incorporate new government rules mandating longer rest hours and fewer night landings.

Compounded by winter flight schedule changes, air congestion and adverse weather, the math was suddenly not adding up for the low-cost airline whose relentless optimisation had allowed it to turn a profit within three years of inception and over time capture nearly 66% of India's aviation market.

The resource-efficient instincts baked into IndiGo's DNA had led to a severe under-estimation of redundancies needed to accommodate the new pilot rest rules, despite carriers having had nearly two years to prepare since the guidance was first announced in January 2024.

Scheduling changes began to snowball: IndiGo canceled at least 70 flights on December 3, then 300 on December 4 and finally, over 1,000 on December 5 — about half of the flights it normally operates daily.

As thousands of furious passengers became stranded in major city airports over the weekend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was forced to suspend the new pilot rest rules, cap fares to avoid price gouging and order more trains into operation.

On Sunday, the DGCA also demanded that IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers explain within 24 hours this severe disruption and why action shouldn't be taken against him for the "significant lapses in planning, oversight, and resource management."

This account of how IndiGo's operations unraveled is based on conversations with people with direct knowledge of events, who asked not to be identified. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

The debacle now threatens IndiGo's position in the industry, and its ambitious expansion plans.

After cementing its dominant position in domestic skies, IndiGo was boosting its overseas footprint, had ordered more Airbus jets, and added business class seats. Earlier this year, it signed a codeshare pact with Delta Air Lines Inc, Air France-KLM and Virgin Atlantic Airways.

The flight cancellations pushed parent InterGlobe Aviation Ltd down 9% last week, making it the company's worst week since Elbers' appointment in 2022. Even with the drop, the shares have almost tripled since the Dutch executive took over as CEO, far-outperforming the Sensex's 49% gain and an 8.4% increase in an index tracking Asian carriers.

The events of the past week, occurring just six months after an Air India crash that killed over 260 people in Ahmedabad, cap one of the most worst years for India's aviation industry.

The sight of one carrier bringing national air traffic to a near-halt underscores the danger of India's reliance on too-big-to-falter industrial giants.

"This airline is supposed to be a market leader with outstanding management," said Mark D Martin, Founder of India-based aviation advisory Martin Consulting. "This is going to be so extremely damaging to the airline. They have lost credibility."

It's a stark fall from grace for a company that became a business school case study for its profitable, lean operations in a sector notorious for cash-burn and bankruptcies.

IndiGo's tightly-run operations are built on a rapid turnaround of flights and a strategy of sweating every asset — man or machine — to the limit. It flies only one aircraft type, Airbus A320s family jets — a standardisation that cuts costs on pilot and crew training, maintenance and parts inventory.

IndiGo Standard Time

The focus is equally sharp on reducing time on the ground, with the carrier terming its punctual reputation "IndiGo Standard Time". Flights have a four-zone system for quick boarding, and crews open all exit doors for speedier disembarking.

No efficiency is too small: flight staff have even switched to a faster method of weighing sandwiches — their top-selling onboard item — instead of counting them, said people familiar with the matter.

That's why when Airbus ordered an emergency software fix last week that resulted in flight delays and cancellations across the world, IndiGo completed the update on all of its jets within 24 hours.

This modus operandi shaved down an IndiGo jet's turnaround time to 20 or 25 minutes versus an industry average of 45 minutes. This meant it could squeeze in more and more flights over the years.

"IndiGo's operations are so tightly knit that one flight cancellation would impact at least six flights," said Shakti Lumba, who was IndiGo's head of operations when it first began operating in 2006.

The carrier's ultra-optimised operations were developed when it had just 100-200 aircraft — less than half the size of its current fleet, Lumba said. Those now require a relook to allow for more system redundancy especially in manpower planning, he added.

Lack of slack

The lack of slack in the system became all too apparent over the last week, as the scheduling breakdown cascaded through operations. A flight took off with three cabin crew staff meant for another flight that then got stranded, sources said. One pilot was stuck for days at his hotel in the Middle East, waiting for his return flying schedule.

Ground staff cowered from furious throngs of passengers, and could not even retrieve check-in bags that were stuck in grounded aircraft.

Indian officials are furious with the carrier, and have now acted to quell public anger by tightening scrutiny around the carrier. It also casts a poor light on the country's aviation infrastructure.

The new pilot duty rules are on hold, after IndiGo sought a two-month reprieve. Airfares were capped as tickets on rival carriers surged 10-fold. Even Indian Railways added special trains to move stranded fliers.

The situation is stabilising: there were fewer cancellations on Saturday, at about 850 and the airline said it was "confident" operations will stabilise by December 10. But observers expect the crisis to trigger some fundamental changes in the industry.

It's dangerous for one airline to have such a high market share, said analyst Ajay Bodke. "Defying government regulations announced months in advance, and now seeking a last-minute two-month reprieve to comply," he stated, adding, "This is not inefficiency. It's willful disregard."

Homes to holdings: The new way wealthy invest in realty

For decades, the surest way to build wealth in India was simple — buy land, hold it long enough, and watch its value grow. For most families, property wasn't just an asset class; it was identity, legacy, and financial safety rolled into one.

But a quiet revolution is reshaping how India's affluent are investing in real estate. The new generation of investors — more global, more data-driven, and less sentimental — are moving away from buying physical property and towards Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) that let them participate in the same story, but with scale, diversification, and none of the hassles of direct ownership.

The end of the one-apartment mindset

The "own-a-flat" mindset is giving way to a portfolio approach. A 30-year-old professional in Bengaluru or a family office in Mumbai is now asking: Why buy one apartment when I can invest in 10 projects through a regulated fund?

The logic is hard to argue with. Direct property investment, once the gold standard of wealth, now faces diminishing returns. Residential rentals rarely yield more than 2-3% annually. Liquidity is poor, and managing tenants, taxes, and paperwork can feel like a full-time job.

Meanwhile, the AIF ecosystem has quietly grown into a Rs 10 lakh crore industry, according to Sebi data. Within that, real estate-focused Category II AIFs have emerged as the new magnet for high-net-worth capital — offering investors a professionally managed gateway into India's most-resilient asset class.

What makes AIFs different

At their core, AIFs are professionally managed, privately pooled investment vehicles. They collect capital from sophisticated investors and deploy it into real estate — through either debt or equity — depending on the fund's mandate.

Debt-oriented AIFs lend to developers at secured interest rates, typically returning 12-16% annually. Equity-oriented AIFs invest in the ownership or quasi-equity of projects, often aiming for 18-25% internal rate of return (IRR). Both come with one key advantage: they allow investors to ride India's real estate growth without having to own or manage a single square foot.

And unlike buying a single property, these funds diversify across multiple developments — from premium housing and commercial offices to warehousing and data centres — spreading risk, while opening access to institutional-grade opportunities.

Professional capital meets professional management

Behind every credible AIF sits a team of fund managers, analysts, and real estate experts who evaluate deals, manage developer relationships, and monitor execution. The investor, in effect, outsources the heavy lifting — project selection, due diligence, and exit planning — to specialists whose interests are aligned with performance.

BHAVYA BAGRECHA
FUND MANAGER AT WEALTH COMPANY ASSET MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED

This marks a major evolution from the old, relationship-driven world of real-estate investing, where decisions were often based on instinct or personal networks. AIFs bring institutional discipline, transparency, and scale to what was once an opaque, fragmented market.

Why the shift feels inevitable

Several forces are driving this transition.

Demographic change: A younger, financially-literate generation values liquidity and performance over emotional attachment to assets

Regulatory confidence: Sebi's AIF regulations (2012) have brought credibility and oversight, boosting investor comfort

Funding gaps: As traditional bank credit to developers remains tight, private capital through AIFs is filling the void — at attractive yields

Evolving real estate themes: Institutional projects — from logistics hubs to student housing — are now accessible to investors through fund structures rather than ownership

Put simply, the AIF is the modern counterpart to the family's second flat — but smarter, diversified, and data-backed.

The new relationship with real estate

The rise of AIFs doesn't mean the end of direct property investment. Homes will always remain emotionally resonant — a space to live, not just to invest. But the financial relationship with real estate is changing. Investors now seek returns, governance, and convenience, not just square footage.

In that sense, the shift towards AIFs mirrors India's broader financial evolution — from saving in gold to buying ETFs, from family business to portfolio allocation. It's about moving from tangible comfort to strategic confidence.

The road ahead

As India urbanises and infrastructure deepens, the need for capital across the built environment — housing, offices, logistics, data infrastructure — will only grow. AIFs are fast-becoming the preferred bridge between this opportunity and the capital waiting to deploy.

For investors, this is more than a trend; it's a mindset shift. From owning a home to owning a share of India's urban future — the AIF revolution is redefining what it means to be a real estate investor in the new economy.

Journey of the Indian Rupee

Our currency is marking 75 years, but its legacy is rooted deep in India's medieval history

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Soon after Independence, India adopted the 'lion capital' of Mauryan emperor Ashoka the Great as its national emblem. Beginning August 15, 1950, this replaced the British monarch on all Indian coins. The year 2025 thus marks the 75th anniversary of the Indian Rupee as the currency of independent India.

Yet the rupee's story stretches centuries earlier, mirroring the commerce, conquests and cultures of the subcontinent. The first rupee coin — a silver denomination — was introduced by Sher Shah Suri. Bearing the Islamic year 945 (June 1538-May 1539), it was likely struck in Bihar. The coin carried an innovation: the legend "May Allah perpetuate his kingdom", along with Sher Shah's name rendered in both Arabic and Devanagari.

The word Rupiyah itself appeared for the first time during the 47th year of the reign of Mughal emperor Jalal-ud-Din Muhammad Akbar. Struck at the Agra mint, these coins displayed denominations — rupiyah, darb (½ rupee) and charan (¼ rupee). They are referenced in the Ain-i-Akbari, Abu'l Fazal's celebrated account of Akbar's administration.

Now, the Sarmaya Arts Foundation is showcasing this vast legacy through 'Odyssey of the Rupee: From India to the World', a landmark exhibition mapping 500 years of Indian currency across three continents. The exhibition runs from November 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026, at Sarmaya's archive in Lawrence & Mayo House on Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Road in Mumbai's Fort area — close to both the Reserve Bank of India and the India Government Mint.

"Through a wide curation from our numismatics, maps and arts archive, visitors will be able to visualise for the first time the rupee's complete historical arc — from a hand-struck silver coin to the crisp notes in their wallets today," said founder Paul Abraham, a veteran banker and passionate art collector. "Odyssey of the Rupee is a seminal moment for Sarmaya," he added, noting that exhibits include the first rupee issued by Sher Shah Suri, the first coin of independent India, rupees of Maratha, Sikh and other Indian dynasties, and foreign rupees that once circulated across Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia — "a testament to the currency's remarkable global reach".

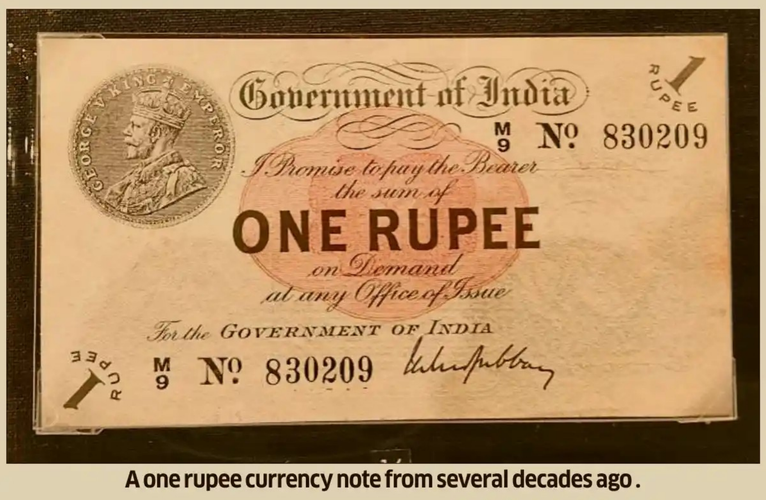
The exhibition is curated by Dr Shailendra Bhandare, Assistant Keeper of South Asian and Far-eastern Numismatics and Paper Money Collections, Fellow of St Cross College and member of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, who has served as Curator of Coins at the Ashmolean Museum since 2002.

"The rupee's journey transcends our borders, spanning from Tbilisi in Georgia to East Java in Indonesia. Odyssey of the rupee follows these trails and situates them within the larger movements of Indian history," Dr Bhandare said, adding, "In its 75th year, the Indian Rupee remains a vital link to our past — a living archive of conquest and commerce, empire and independence, language and faith. The rupee's odyssey mirrors our own."

The exhibition presents a comprehensive narrative of currency, empire, trade, identity and global circulation — tracing how the rupee (and related coins) travelled across continents due to commerce, conquest, colonisation, migration, and exchange.

Instead of reading history through textbooks, "Odyssey of the Rupee" lets you see, hold (virtually), and experience how currency — a mundane daily object — reflects centuries of migration, trade, empire, revolution, identity and global connections.

The rupee wasn't just India's currency — it circulated across seas, was adopted by foreign powers, and shaped trade networks from the Indian Ocean to East Africa, South-East Asia, the Middle East and beyond. The exhibition restores that global context.


Government of India
M 9 № 830209
I Promise to pay the Bearer the sum of
ONE RUPEE
on Demand at any Office of Issue
For the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
M 9 № 830209

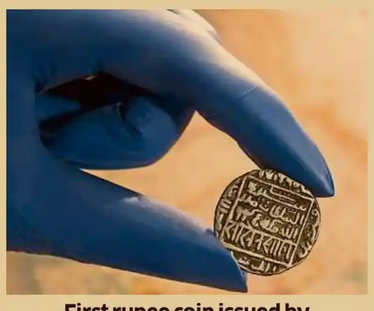
A one rupee currency note from several decades ago .

Currency of the future

■ For the first time since Independence, the currency received a distinct, globally recognisable identity – placing it alongside symbols like the US dollar ($), British pound (£), euro (€), and Japanese yen (¥). The '₹' symbol is a creative fusion of the Devanagari letter "र" (ra) and the Roman capital "R" (without the vertical stem)

■ With the launch of the Digital Rupee (e₹) in 2022, the symbol gained an even deeper role. It now represents not just physical currency, but also India's presence in the evolving ecosystem of digital money, blockchain-enabled payments and fintech innovations

NOTES FROM HISTORY



First rupee coin issued by Sher Shah Suri in 1538.

- **1538:** Sher Shah Suri strikes the earliest rupees
- **1602:** Akbar's coins first mention "Rupiyah"
- **1650:** Earliest Portuguese rupees (Xerafims) struck in Goa
- **1672:** East India Company's Bombay mint issues rupees (Anglina)
- **1790:** First machine-struck rupee issued from Calcutta Mint
- **1800:** British begin producing Surat rupees in Bombay
- **1825-29:** Steam-driven Bombay Mint set up
- **1835:** First uniform rupee introduced
- **1862:** Coins and notes with Queen Victoria's portrait launched
- **1917:** First One-Rupee notes issued
- **1935:** Reserve Bank of India established
- **1950:** First rupee coins of the Indian Republic
- **1957:** Rupee decimalised into 100 naya paisa
- **2010:** Indian rupee gets its modern symbol - ₹
- **2022:** RBI launches digital rupee

WEEK AHEAD

Markets await key macro events for direction

Overall, investor sentiment remains constructive in the near term

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

This week, Indian equities are likely to remain in consolidation mode with a positive bias, supported by RBI's 25 basis points rate cut and liquidity infusion last week, expectations of policy easing by the US Federal Reserve, steady domestic flows and rotational sectoral strength. Primary market activity is set to remain strong with 4 mainboard IPOs slated to open for subscription this week, collectively raising over Rs 3,700 crore. Key macro events during the week include Fed's interest rate decision, India's retail inflation for November 2025, Japan's Q3 GDP and US job openings data, that would influence the global market cues. Further, markets would also react to the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released after market-hours on Friday.

The RBI announced a unanimous 25 basis points cut in the repo rate, bringing it down to 5.25%, while also outlining plans for Rs 1 lakh crore in OMO purchases and a three-year USD/INR swap of $5 billion in December to inject additional liquidity into the banking system. Markets will now watch for the RBI commentary on policy transmission and credit growth.

Last week, Nifty touched a fresh all-time high of 26,325.80 but ended the week with a marginal loss of 0.1% at 26,186 on account of persistent FII outflows and weakness in INR. The FIIs offloaded nearly Rs 10,000 crore up till Thursday last week, dampening market sentiments. The broader markets witnessed selling pressure with Nifty Midcap100 and Smallcap100 ending lower by 0.7% and 1.8% respectively. Amongst sectors, IT was the top performer, gaining 3.5% on the back of stronger dollar and rising expectations of a US Fed rate cut. Defence stocks were in limelight amid Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India to attend the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. Meanwhile, PSU bank index ended lower by 1.6% as the government clarified that it has no plan to raise the FDI limit in public sector banks, keeping the existing 20% ceiling unchanged.

On the macro front, October IIP grew by a meagre 0.4% YoY vs. 4.6% in September 2025. Manufacturing PMI recorded its weakest growth in 14 months in October, rising 1.8% YoY (-2.8% MoM). This decline was in tandem with the imposition of US trade tariffs on India and the sharp 11.8% YoY slowdown in exports (both oil and core exports) in October. Meanwhile, India's Gross GST collections for November 2025 stood at Rs 1.70 lakh crore, up 0.7% YoY, driven by lower GST rates and increased compliance.

INR/USD crossed past the 90-mark, making a fresh all-time low, pressured by sustained foreign outflows and delay in India-US trade deal. India's external account weakened in 2QFY26 as a sharp rise in gold imports widened the trade deficit, while subdued FII inflows weighed on the capital account, resulting in a deterioration in the balance of payments to 1.1% of GDP (-USD10.9 b). For FY26, the wider trade deficit is likely to push the CAD/GDP ratio up to 1.2% from 0.6% in FY25. Given this trajectory, the CAD outlook will remain a key determinant of USD-INR depreciation.

Globally, Japan's 30-year government bond yield rose to a record 3.43% last week. Rising Japanese yields may prompt institutional investors to reallocate capital towards safer, higher-return domestic assets, potentially impacting flows across markets including EMs like India. Overall, investor sentiment remains constructive in the near term, supported by healthy domestic liquidity, stable GDP growth.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited)

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Safari Industries (ID: SAFARI) — BUY
Upside +14%** | Last close ₹2,362 | Target: ₹2,700*

JSW Steel (ID: JSWSTEEL) — BUY
Upside +17%** | Last close ₹1,149 | Target: ₹1,350*

Siemens Energy (ID: ENRIN) — BUY
Upside +23%** | Last close ₹3,080 | Target: ₹3,800*

HCL Tech (ID: HCLTECH) — BUY
Upside +30%** | Last close ₹1,655 | Target: ₹2,150*

Ambuja Cement (ID: AMBUJACEM) — BUY
Upside +40%** | Last close ₹537 | Target: ₹750*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

DH TECH REVIEW

Vivo X300 Pro: Versatile premium camera phone

ROHIT KVN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Last week, Vivo launched the new camera-centric premium X300 series smartphone in India.

It is available in two variants—the standard X300 and the top-end X300 Pro — with prices starting at Rs 75,999 and Rs 1,09,999, respectively.

Processor: MediaTek's 3nm Dimensity 9500 processor with Mali-G1 Ultra GPU, 16GB LPDDR5X RAM, and 512GB storage.

Camera: The triple ZEISS camera system features a 50MP main sensor (Sony LYT828, f/1.57, OIS), 50MP ultra-wide, and a 200MP periscope telephoto lens with 3.7x optical zoom and a LED flash on the back.

Price: Rs 75,999 and Rs 1,09,999.

Design, Build, and Display

The new X300 Pro retains the design elements of its predecessor. It flaunts a large circular camera module with ZEISS branding. The Pro's bump protrudes slightly more, but it doesn't affect usability. The phone rests stably on flat surfaces and doesn't wobble much even when vibrating during a call notification.

Build quality is top-notch. It features an aluminium frame, frosted fibreglass back, and Armor Glass on the front promising 110% better scratch resistance than its predecessor.

Vivo also offers a free premium protective case, to prevent damage from accidental drops on hard surfaces. The phone is IP68 and IP69 certified. It is capable of surviving up to 30 minutes in 1.5 metres of freshwater and brief exposure to high-pressure water jets.

The Dune Gold colour variant looks stunning under sunlight, while the frosted finish resists fingerprints.

The 6.78-inch LTPO AMOLED display offers 1.5K resolution, a 20:9 aspect ratio, and a peak brightness of 4,500 nits. Though it lacks anti-reflective coating, outdoor readability is excellent, and watching movie is a treat.

Performance and Software

It is powered by MediaTek's 3nm Dimensity 9500 processor with Mali-G1 Ultra GPU, 16GB LPDDR5X RAM, and 512GB storage.

The X300 Pro smoothly handles day-to-day activities and even while playing games and operating generative AI apps.

Its vapour cooling chamber does a fine job of effectively controlling excessive heat during heavy duty tasks.

It runs Android 16-based OriginOS 6. The user interface is lively with dynamic glows, ambient lighting, and gradient effects. Features like Origin Island offer real-time updates—similar to iPhone's Dynamic Island—for cricket scores, delivery ETAs, and more.

The Vivo Office Kit and One Tap Transfer simplify file sharing and cross-device control, even with Macs and iPhones.

With a 6,510mAh battery capacity, the device can easily last a full day. It supports 90W fast charging and 40W wireless charging.

Cameras

Photography is the X300 Pro's highlight. The triple ZEISS camera system features a 50MP main sensor (Sony LYT828, f/1.57, OIS), 50MP ultra-wide, and a 200MP periscope telephoto lens with 3.7x optical zoom and a LED flash on the back.

Whether in daylight, indoors, or low light, the images are sharp, detailed, and colour-accurate,

In portrait mode, photos are really good with beautiful bokeh effects in the background.

Thanks to advanced computational photography software, the images retain clarity with minimal noise even at 100x zoom.

The 50MP front camera excels at selfies and 4K video recording.

The main camera is capable of capturing 8K resolution videos at 30fps and full HD 1080p slow motion videos at 240fps.

Its AI tools such as Image Studio, Object Eraser, and Landscape Master enhance creative photography.

Verdict

The Vivo X300 Pro excels in premium design, excellent processor, class-leading photography hardware and delivers good on long battery life.

The higher price compared to the predecessor is reflection of increased costs of mobile silicons and memory chipsets, but for enthusiasts seeking a versatile flagship camera experience, it's worth considering.

Mcap of five of top-10 most-valued firms surges Rs 72,285 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of five of the top-10 most valued firms surged by Rs 72,284.74 crore last week, with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest winners.

While Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Bajaj Finance were the gainers, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced erosion from their valuation.

Last week, the BSE benchmark eked out a marginal gain of 5.7 points, while the NSE Nifty dipped 16.5 points.

TCS added Rs 35,909.52 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 11,71,862.37 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys jumped Rs 23,404.55 crore to Rs 6,71,366.53 crore.

The valuation of Bajaj Finance climbed Rs 6,720.28 crore to Rs 6,52,396.39 crore and that of Bharti Airtel edged higher by Rs 3,791.9 crore to Rs 12,01,832.74 crore.

The mcap of ICICI Bank went up Rs 2,458.49 crore to Rs 9,95,184.46 crore.

However, the market valuation of Reliance Industries tumbled Rs 35,116.76 crore to Rs 20,85,218.71 crore.

The mcap of LIC dropped by Rs 15,559.49 crore to Rs 5,50,021.80 crore.

The valuation of State Bank of India declined by Rs 7,522.96 crore to Rs 8,96,662.19 crore and that of HDFC Bank slid Rs 5,724.03 crore to Rs 15,43,019.64 crore.

Benin govt says it thwarted attempted coup

COTONOU, AFP: Benin's government on Sunday said it had thwarted an attempted coup, after a group of soldiers announced on state television that they had ousted President Patrice Talon.

Military and security sources said that around a dozen soldiers were arrested, including those behind the foiled coup.

West Africa has experienced a number of coups in recent years, including in Benin's northern neighbours Niger and Burkina Faso, as well as Mali, Guinea and, most recently, Guinea-Bissau.

Talon, a 67-year-old former businessman dubbed the "cotton king of Cotonou", was due to hand over power in April next year after 10 years in office marked by solid economic growth but also a surge in jihadist violence.

Early on Sunday, soldiers calling themselves the "Military Committee for Refoundation" (CMR), said on state television that they had met and decided that "Mr Patrice Talon is removed from office as president of the republic".

But shortly after the announcement, a source close to Talon told AFP the president was safe and condemned the coup plotters as "a small group of people who only control the television".

"The regular army is regaining control. The city (Cotonou) and the country are completely secure," they said. "It's just a matter of time before everything returns to normal. The clean-up is progressing well."

France's embassy recommended its citizens in Benin remain indoors.

Israel, Hamas expected to enter phase 2 of truce soon

Israeli PM says there's a third phase, and that is to deradicalise Gaza

TEL AVIV, AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz attend a joint press conference in Jerusalem on Sunday. AFP

NEXT STEP

- Second phase, the disarming of Hamas and the demilitarisation of Gaza could begin as soon as the end of the month
- The stage also includes the deployment of an international force to secure Gaza and forming a temporary Palestinian government
- Germany is assisting with the implementation of the second phase

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israel and Hamas are "very shortly expected to move into the second phase of the ceasefire," after Hamas returns the remains of the last hostage held in Gaza.

Netanyahu spoke during a news conference with visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and stressed that the second phase, the disarming of Hamas and the demilitarisation of Gaza could begin as soon as the end of the month.

Hamas has yet to hand over the remains of Ran Gvili, a 24-year-old police officer who was killed in the Hamas-led Oct 7, 2023, attack that sparked the war. His body was taken to Gaza.

The ceasefire's second stage also includes the deployment of an international force to secure Gaza and forming a temporary Palestinian government to run day-to-day affairs under the supervision of an international board led by US President Donald Trump.

The return of Gvili's remains — and Israel's return of 15 bodies of Palestinians in exchange — would complete the first phase of Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan.

Hamas says it has not been able to reach all remains because they are buried under rubble left by Israel's two-year offensive in Gaza. Israel has accused the militants of stalling and threatened to resume military operations or withhold humanitarian aid if all remains are not returned.

Merz said Germany, one of Israel's closest allies, is assisting with the implementation of the second phase by sending officers and diplomats to a US-led civilian and military coordination centre in southern Israel, and by sending humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Netanyahu said few people believed the ceasefire's first stage could be achieved, and the second phase is just as challenging.

"As I mentioned to the chancellor, there's a third phase, and that is to deradicalize Gaza, something that also people believed was impossible. But it was done in Germany, it was done in Japan, it was done in the Gulf States. It can be done in Gaza, too, but of course Hamas has to be dismantled," he said.

Merz said Germany will "always stand up for Israel's existence and security" after the atrocities of the Holocaust: "This is part of the unchanging core of our relationship. This applies today, it applies tomorrow and it applies forever."

Hamas open to 'freezing or storing' arms in ceasefire deal

DOHA, AP: Hamas is ready to discuss "freezing or storing" its arsenal of weapons as part of its ceasefire with Israel, a senior official said Sunday, offering a possible formula to resolve one of the thorniest issues in the US-brokered agreement.

Bassem Naim, a member of Hamas' decision-making political bureau, spoke as the sides prepare to move into the second and more complicated phase of the agreement. "We are open to have a comprehensive approach in order to avoid further escalations or in order to avoid any further clashes or explosions," Naim told The Associated Press in Qatar's capital, Doha, where much of the group's leadership is located.

The deal halted a two-year Israeli offensive in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack. Asked whether the attack was a mistake, Naim defended it as an "act of defence".

Since the truce took effect in October, Hamas and Israel have carried out a series of exchanges of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners. With only the remains of one hostage still held in Gaza.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

US President Donald Trump participates in the Kennedy Center Honors medal presentation in the Oval Office, ahead of the ceremony in Washington. REUTERS

Man held after people 'pepper sprayed' at Heathrow airport

A man was arrested on suspicion of assault at the Heathrow Airport on Sunday after police were called to reports of a number of people being attacked with pepper spray, with the incident causing major travel disruptions, reports PTI from London.

The Metropolitan Police said the morning incident was not terrorism related and that the injuries to the victims were not thought to be "life-threatening or life changing".

The force believes the incident involved an argument between a group of people known to each other. "A number of people were sprayed with what is believed to be a form of pepper spray by a group of men who then left the scene," the Met Police said in a statement.

"Armed response officers attended and arrested one man on suspicion of assault. He remains in custody and enquiries continue to trace further suspects," the statement said.

The incident caused major disruption to flights, with the airport advising passengers to allow extra time for their journeys.

India shifts Shanghai Consulate

India on Sunday opened its new state-of-the-art Consulate building in Shanghai, marking its first relocation in 32 years in China's main business hub, reports PTI from Beijing.

The Shanghai Consulate caters to India's burgeoning business community in the eastern region of China, home to top trade and business hubs like Yiwu, where a number of Indian businesses are present. The sprawling new Chancery building at the prominent Dawning Centre in Changning District, covering 1,436.63 sqm -- more than double the size of the previous one -- was inaugurated by Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat.

The 2025 Nobel Laureates pose for a group photo before signing the Nobel Chairs at the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden. AFP

Indonesian Prez in Pak today

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will undertake his maiden official visit to Pakistan from Monday to deepen bilateral ties and explore new avenues of cooperation, reports PTI from Islamabad.

Subianto has been invited by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the visit from December 8-9, the Foreign Office said in a statement, adding that he will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising key ministers and senior officials.

"This will be President Prabowo's first visit to Pakistan," the Foreign Office said.

"The upcoming visit carries added significance as it coincides with the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Indonesia."

Water leak in Louvre spoils works

A water leak in late November damaged several hundred works in the Louvre's Egyptian department, the Paris museum told AFP on Sunday, weeks after a brazen jewel theft raised concerns over its infrastructure, reports AFP from Paris.

"Between 300 and 400 works" were affected by the leak discovered on November 26, said the museum's deputy administrator Francis Steinbock, describing them as "Egyptology journals" and "scientific documentation" used by researchers.

The damaged items date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and are "extremely useful" but are "by no means unique", Steinbock added. "No heritage artefacts have been affected by this damage," he said.

Japan, Oz urge calm after Chinese radar locks on Japanese jets

TOKYO, AP

Japan and Australia urged calm on Sunday after Chinese military aircraft locked radar on Japanese fighter jets, a month after the Japanese leader's recent remarks on Taiwan that stirred tensions between Tokyo and Beijing.

Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said Japan formally protested the incident, calling it "an extremely regrettable" act and "a dangerous" one that "exceeded the scope necessary for safe aircraft operations."

"We have lodged a strong protest with the Chinese side and demanded strict preventive measures," Koizumi said.

Japan's Defence Ministry said China's military aircraft J-15 took off from the Chinese carrier Liaoning near the southern island of Okinawa on Saturday and "intermittently" latched its radar on Japanese F-15 fighter jets on two occasions Saturday, for about three minutes in the late afternoon and for about 30 minutes in the evening.

It was not made clear whether the radar lock incident involved the same Chinese J-15 both times. Japanese fighter jets that had been scrambled to pursue Chinese jets that were conducting aircraft takeoff and landing exercises in the Pacific.

Senior Colonel Wang Xuemeng, spokesperson for the Chinese navy, defended China's flight training near the Miyako island Saturday, saying Beijing announced the exercises beforehand and accused Japanese aircraft of "harassment."

"We solemnly asked the Japanese side to immediately stop slandering and smearing, and strictly restrain its frontline actions. The Chinese Navy will take necessary measures in accordance with the law to resolutely safeguard its own security and legitimate rights and interests," Wang said.

Japan and Australia, whose defence ministers held their scheduled talks in Tokyo on Sunday, expressed worry over the development.

Kremlin welcomes Trump's call for 'strategic stability'

Says Nato statements are encouraging

MOSCOW, REUTERS

NEW STRATEGY

- Kremlin cautions that some in US will see it differently
- Praises the US document's bid to end 'the perception, and prevent the reality, of Nato as a perpetually expanding alliance'
- New strategy warns that Europe faces 'civilizational erasure', that it was a core US interest to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine, and that Washington wanted to reestablish strategic stability with Russia.

The Kremlin on Sunday welcomed US President Donald Trump's move to stop calling Russia a direct threat and said his new national security strategy, which portrays European powers as in decline, largely accorded with Russia's own perceptions.

The US National Security Strategy described Trump's vision as one of "flexible realism" and argued that the US should revive the 19th century Monroe Doctrine, which declared the Western Hemisphere to be Washington's zone of influence.

The strategy, signed by Trump, also warned that Europe faces "civilizational erasure", that it was a "core" US interest to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine, and that Washington wanted to reestablish strategic stability with Russia.

"The adjustments that we see correspond in many ways to our vision," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told state television reporter Pavel Zarubin when asked about the new US strategy.

Asked about the pledge in the US document to end "the perception, and preventing the reality, of Nato as a perpetually expanding alliance", Peskov said it was encouraging.

But Peskov also cautioned that what he said was the US "deep state" saw the world differently to Trump, who has used the term to refer to an allegedly entrenched network of US officials who seek to undermine those who challenge the status quo, including Trump himself.

Critics of Trump say there is no such thing as a "deep state," and that Trump and his allies are trafficking in a conspiracy theory to justify an executive-branch power grab.

Since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, U.S. strategies have designated Moscow as an aggressor or a threat that was trying to destabilise the post-Cold War order by force.

Trump's Pentagon chief under fire as scandals mount

WASHINGTON, AFP: US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is under mounting pressure from scandals surrounding strikes on alleged drug boats and his use of Signal to discuss sensitive military information, sparking growing criticism and calls for him to quit.

Hegseth -- a former Army National Guard major who went from Fox News co-host to leader of the world's most powerful military -- is no stranger to controversy and was only narrowly confirmed by the Senate earlier this year.

The strikes on alleged narcotics smugglers -- especially an incident in which survivors of an initial attack were subsequently killed -- and his use of commercial messaging app Signal to talk about an impending operation in Yemen, have fueled further opposition to Hegseth.

"He's in another difficult position. In fact, his two big problems have now merged," said Mark Cancian, a retired US Marine colonel and senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"But he seems to retain (US President Donald) Trump's confidence, even as he's lost support of some Republicans," Cancian said.

Jim Townsend, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for European and Nato policy during the Obama administration, said Hegseth is "on thin ice," and that Trump has "a secretary of defense that is giving him lots of headaches."

Macron threatens China with tariffs over trade imbalance

PARIS, REUTERS

Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) and French President Emmanuel Macron. AFP FILE

President Emmanuel Macron said he had threatened Beijing with tariffs during his state visit to China if there was no action taken to reduce the country's ever-widening trade deficit with the European Union.

During Macron's visit earlier in December, he urged China to boost cooperation on "unsustainable" global trade imbalances, geopolitics and the environment.

"I tried to explain to the Chinese that their trade surplus is unsustainable because they are killing their own customers, particularly by no longer importing much from us," Macron said in an interview published on Sunday by French daily Les Echos.

"I told them that if they do not react, we Europeans would be forced, in the coming months, to take strong measures following the example of the United States, such as imposing tariffs on Chinese products," he added.

The EU's goods trade deficit with China has ballooned by nearly 60% since 2019, while France's trade balance with the $19 trillion economy continues to widen.

Macron has in the past sought to project a robust European front in dealing with China, pushing Brussels to deploy protectionist countermeasures to slow the arrival of Chinese goods hammering European industry.

Macron told Les Echos that the European industry was in a tough position, caught between U.S. President Donald Trump's protectionism and China, which "is hitting the heart of the European industrial and innovation model".

"Today, we are caught between the two and it is a matter of life or death for the European industry. We have become the adjustment market and this is the worst-case scenario," he added.

Macron also said he was proposing a more conciliatory approach towards China, such as the dismantling of restrictions on exports of semiconductor machinery on the European side and limitations on exports of rare earths on the Chinese side.

Macron called on Chinese companies to invest in Europe and to "create value and opportunities for Europe".

After fine against X, Musk says EU 'should be abolished'

WASHINGTON, AFP: Elon Musk clapped back Saturday at the European Union after it hit the tech tycoon's X social media platform with a major fine, telling his 230 million online followers that the EU should be "abolished."

Following a high-profile probe seen as a test of EU resolve to police Big Tech, the social media platform owned by the world's richest person was slapped with a fine of 120 million euros ($140 million) on Friday for breaking the bloc's digital rules.

The penalty was swiftly criticized by the US administration of Donald Trump, who as president aligned with Musk on a contentious effort to slash the federal workforce and cut spending, before the two had a falling out.

Musk himself weighed in after the fine was announced, posting on his X account: "The EU should be abolished and sovereignty returned to individual countries, so that governments can better represent their people."

When a user reposted Musk's comment, he responded, "I mean it. Not kidding."

"I love Europe, but not the bureaucratic monster that is the EU," he added in another post.

B'desh begins exhuming mass grave from 2024 uprising amid UN-backed probe

DHAKA, AFP

Bangladeshi police began exhuming on Sunday a mass grave believed to contain around 114 unidentified victims of a mass uprising that toppled autocratic former prime minister Sheikh Hasina last year.

The UN-supported effort is being advised by Argentine forensic anthropologist Luis Fondebrider, who has led recovery and identification missions at mass graves worldwide for decades.

The bodies were buried at the Rayerbazar Graveyard in Dhaka by the volunteer group Anjuman Mufidul Islam, which said it handled 80 unclaimed bodies in July and another 34 in August 2024 -- all people reported to have been killed during weeks of deadly protests.

The United Nations says up to 1,400 people were killed in crackdowns as Hasina attempted to cling to power -- deaths that formed part of her conviction last month for crimes against humanity.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief Md Sibgat Ullah said investigators believed the mass grave held roughly 114 bodies, but the exact number would only be known once exhumations were complete. "We can only confirm once we dig the graves and exhume the bodies," Ullah told reporters.

Among those hoping for answers is Mohammed Nabil, who is searching for the remains of his brother Sohel Rana, 28, who vanished in July 2024. "We searched for him everywhere," Nabil told AFP.

Exhumed bodies will be given post-mortem examinations and DNA testing. The process is expected to take several weeks to complete.

Student-led party joins offshoot of Jamaat

DHAKA, PTI: The recently launched student-led party NCP on Sunday joined an offshoot of Jamaat-e-Islami and another pressure group to form an alliance called 'Gonotantrik Sangskar Jote' ahead of the February election in Bangladesh.

The National Citizen Party (NCP), formed in February this year with encouragement from Interim government Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, is a political outfit of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) that led last year's violent street movement.

A demonstrator holds a sign during a protest against femicide and gender-related violence, in Brasilia, Brazil, on Sunday. REUTERS

Psychic Star wins main event

MUMBAI RESULTS

Psychic Star, from the stables of Pesi Shroff and ridden by G Vivek, won the AC Ardeshir Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Sunday.

1. Ibrahim A Rahimtoola Trophy - 1200M: Ariyana Star (Trevor Patel) 1; Believe (K Pranil) 2; Red Merlot (Ramswarup) 3; Majestic Warrior (Avinash Paswan) 4; WB: 1-1/4, 1L, Shd. T: 1:11.40; TB: Aman Altaf Hussain. Fav: Ariyana Star.

2. Jayant M Shah & Champak M Shah Gold Trophy - 1400M: Big Bay (Yash Narredu) 1; Eagle Day (G Vivek) 2; Shirsa (SG Prasad) 3; NR: Wind Dancer; WB: 2-1/4, 1/2L; T: 1:23.50; TB: Mallesh Narredu; Fav: Big Bay.

3. Sir Rahimtoola Chinoy Cup - 1600M: Brasilier (Trevor Patel) 1; Giant Gold (Aditya Waydande) 2; Ekatarina (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Majesticus (Mustakim Alam) 4; WB: 2, 1, 3/4L; T: 1:37.38; TB: Pesi Shroff; Fav: Brasiler.

4. AC Ardeshir Trophy - 1600M: Psychic Star (G Vivek) 1; Once You Go Black (CS Jodha) 2; Santissimo (Trevor Patel) 3; Pride's Prince (Pranil) 4; WB: 2-3/4, Shd, 1-1/4L; T: 1:36.82; TB: P Shroff; Fav: Santissimo.

5. Prince Karim Aga Khan Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Nebula (TS Jddha) 1; Lady Scarlet (Sandesh) 2; Mysitca (N Bhosale) 3; Margaretta (Kristh Bhagat) 4; WB: 5-1/2, 1-1/4, 1L; T: 1:10.18; TB: Behram Cama; Fav: Lady Scarlet.

6. Samuel Nathan Plate - 1200M: You (Aditya Waydande) 1; Samson (Mustakim Alam) 2; Sentinel (Bharat Singh) 3; Jetfire (SP Ranjane) 4; WB: 4-1/2, 1-1/4L, 1/2L; T: 1:11.73; TB: Imtiaz Sait; Fav: You.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 20w; 10, 12, 12p; Fc: Rs 60; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 89 & 64; Ex: Rs 274 & 70.
II race: Rs 13w; Fc: Rs 18; Shp: Rs 13.
III race: Rs 17w; 11, 13, 16p; Fc: Rs 42; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 170 & 59; Ex: Rs 464 & 170.
IV race: Rs 33w; 18, 15p: Fc: Rs 222. Q: Rs 76; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 235 & 77;. Ex: Rs 1,959 & 969.
V race: Rs 58w; 16, 13, 34p; Fc: Rs 110; Q: Rs 40; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 92; Tri: Rs 518 & 834; Ex: Rs 55,748 & 23,892 .
VI race: Rs 20w; 15, 17p; Fc: Rs 82; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 492 & 138; Ex: Rs 1,664 & 492. .
Jackpot: Rs 841 (712). **Runner-up:** Rs 147 (1749). **Treble:** Rs 287 (316).

Amee shock for Alok

BENGALURU, DHNS: In the middle of a brilliant run, India's World Championship bronze medallist Amee Kamani started her campaign with a 5-3 win over compatriot Alok Kumar on the opening day of the Joy Heyball International Open in Chandigarh on Sunday.

The 33-year-old was on top of her game in the 'Race to 5' first round against the seasoned cueist in the first round of the double-elimination mixed tournament.

Day 1 select results (Indians unless specified): Amee Kamani bt Alok Kumar 5-3; David Anderson (RSA) bt Anant Mehta 5-1; Laxman Rawat bt Abhishek Dutta 5-1; Sina Valizdeh (Irn) bt Khan Mafaz Anjum 5-1; Mohd Akram bt Anand Raghuvanshi 4-4 (shootout); Sundeep Gulati bt Simran Singh 5-1; Ankush Negi bt ML Lakshman 4-4 (shootout); Neeraj Bagga bt Ranveer Duggal 4-2.

HOCKEY JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Germany too strong for India

Seven-time champs hammer hosts 5-1 in semifinals

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

A semifinal battle between the two best-ranked teams at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup here was tipped to be a Sunday blockbuster.

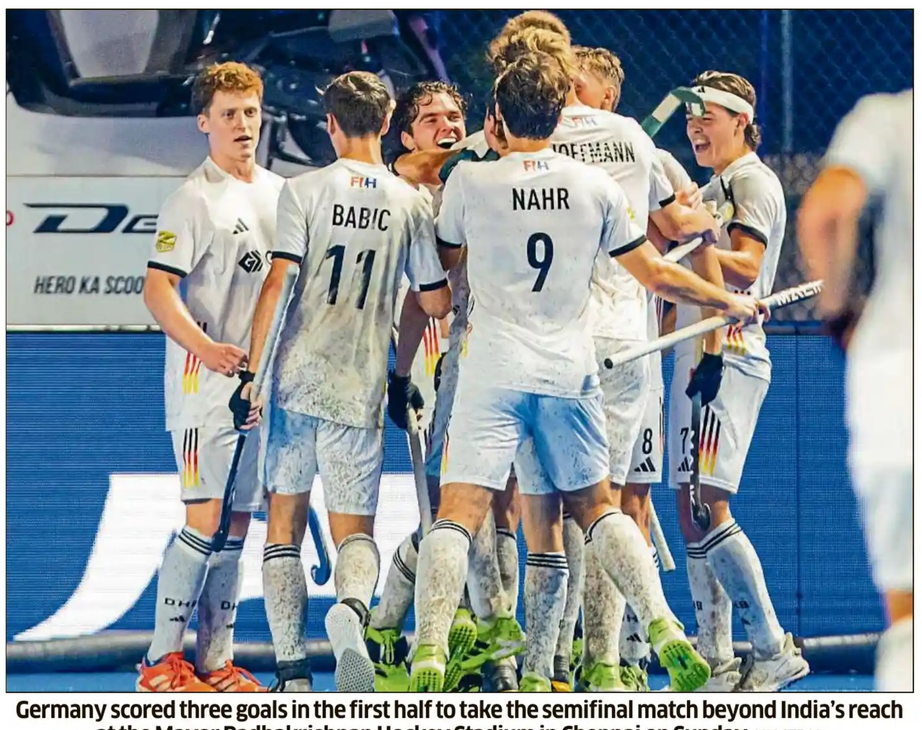
But the hockey-loving Chennai crowd, watched closely by the other 22 teams and their supporters in attendance, who turned out with high expectations from the home boys, had their energy sucked away in a jiffy and reduced to mute spectators by the German side.

Even before the clock crossed the halfway mark, the defending champions had sprinted out of sight from India before completing the formalities in the second half to score a 5-1 win and advance comfortably to the final at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium.

Just when the Rohit Yadav-led squad was beginning to look more coordinated than it has ever been in this tournament, Germany broke away when Lukas Kossel slotted in a penalty stroke in the 14th minute. India had barely re-grouped and the second blow came a minute later through Titus Wex's quick reflex in front of the goal post.

Without any sting in their game and forced to play defensive by an attacking opponent with a faster mind and legs, India watched as Kossel converted a penalty corner for his second goal seconds before the hooter went off at half-time.

Change of ends did little to change the hosts' fortunes. Germany — aggressive in the backline and midfield and taking chances at will without any fumble — were putting on a masterclass to prove the gap in the quality of hockey between them and the world No. 2 India.



Germany scored three goals in the first half to take the semifinal match beyond India's reach at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai on Sunday. HI MEDIA

Jonas von Gersum added his name to the scoreboard in the 40th minute before a lone Ben Habach ran straight into goalkeeper Princedeep Singh and put the ball across the Indian in the 49th minute to give the seven-time title-holders a 5-0 lead.

The lone consolation for PR Sreejesh's men came in the 50th minute with defender Anmol Ekka flicking in to open India's account. The match had marched away beyond their reach by then.

Spain in final

Albert Serrahima's forehand smack from outside the 23-meter line into the back of the net in the 56th minute gave Spain the winning goal against Argentina who were left in tears.

Emotions ran high as Serrahima's goal was referred for a possible body touch by one of the two rival players stationed in between the scorer and the Argentine goalkeeper. However, the umpires declared it a clear goal, which saw the world no. 4 Spanish team enter their maiden Junior Hockey World Cup final, courtesy a 2-1 victory.

Mario Mena opened the account for Spain in the seventh minute before Juan Fernandez equalised for Argentina, ranked third, in the 21st minute.

In a battle that was both vocal and combative, coach Oriol Torras Puig admitted that Spain weren't their best but managed to hold on and break the South American defence to emerge victorious.

Results: Semifinals: Germany: 5 (Lukas Kossel 14th, 30th, Titus Wex 15th, Jonas von Gersum 40th, Ben Habach 49th) bt India: 1 (Anmol Ekka 50th).

Spain: 2 (Mario Mena 7th, Albert Serrahima 56th) bt Argentina: 1 (Juan Fernandez 21st).

5-8 classification: Belgium: 3 (Mathis Lauwers 26th, Maximilian Langer 46th, Hugo Labouchere 58th) bt France: 2 (James Liddiard 22nd, Tassilo Sura 35th);

Netherlands: 6 (Casper van der Veen 4th, 8th, 36th, Peppe Veen 4th, Jan van 't Land 21st, Joppe Wolbert 26th) bt New Zealand: 3 (Owen Brown 18th, 59th, Jonty Elmes 29th).
Final: Germany vs Spain; 3th-4th place: India vs Argentina (Dec 10).

Casper, standing tall for the Dutch!

Skipper has led from the front with nine Jr WC goals

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Personally, Casper van der Veen is having a brilliant run at the ongoing FIH Men's Junior World Cup. He is the captain of the Netherlands team, is leading his boys by example by knocking in goals at will and enjoying the attention he attracts for being one of the tallest players (over 6 feet) on field with an undeniable presence.

A feeling of fulfilment you would assume. "Not really," the 21-year-old told *DH*.

"It was tough to come here after the loss in the quarterfinal. I badly wanted us to make it to the semifinals and beyond. We as a team are so capable of it," pointed the skipper who couldn't hide his disappointment of losing 0-1 to Argentina in the last-eight clash on Friday.

The world No. 5 side were expected to overpower their South American counterparts ranked three. However, the Dutch struggled to break the Argentinian defence while the opponents capitalised on a rare opening to knock Casper's team out.

Incidentally, this is the midfielder's third Junior World Cup with the previous two also ending in a fifth-place finish. Failing to breach into the top-4 for the third consecutive time sure stings.

"So yeah, really happy that we bounced back today and of course happy that I scored some more goals," said Casper after cruising past New Zealand 6-3 in the first of the 5-8 classification match in which he scored his second hat-trick of the tournament.

The backbone of his team and someone who the entire team looks up to, has found the back of the net nine times in five matches and all of the field goals. With the rivals finding it hard to counter the extra punch generated by the big man, he was seen toying around with the angles once again on Sunday against the Kiwis. The third of three goals, especially. Casper thwacked an air ball that had bounced off his stick while trapping inside the 'D'. "(Haha) yeah that was definitely my favourite out of the lot."

Following the footsteps of elder brother Tejmen, the younger one in the family began playing hockey at the age of five at a club in his hometown Heemstede, a small town in the north-western Netherlands.

"I did everything my brother did. I'm not from a really from a hockey family. Both my parents are IT professionals and my hometown is really small. That's why its very important for me to make them proud. They're here in the stands and were a big support even after we lost."

Another personal milestone Casper achieved earlier this year was making his debut in the senior Netherlands' men's side at the FIH Pro League. What made it more memorable was scoring his first international goal for the 'Oranje'.

Netherlands captain Casper van der Veen (centre) is playing his third Junior World Cup and is one of the top goal-scorers of the event so far. HI MEDIA

Brighton strike late for a draw

LONDON, AFP

Brighton forward Georginio Rutter stopped West Ham climbing out of the Premier League relegation zone with a last-gasp equaliser in a dramatic 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side were moments away from escaping the bottom three thanks to Jarrod Bowen's second half strike at the Amex Stadium.

But Rutter grabbed Brighton's leveller in stoppage-time to leave West Ham stuck in 18th place.

The third-bottom Hammers are two points behind fourth-bottom Nottingham Forest in the fight for survival.

Conceding so late was a painful blow for West Ham but after holding Manchester United to a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford on Thursday, West Ham's battling display was further evidence of their improvement since Nuno replaced the sacked Graham Potter in September.

West Ham have lost just one of their last six league matches to revive their survival hopes.

Liverpool humbled

Liverpool suffered another embarrassing capitulation to ramp up the pressure on manager Arne Slot as Leeds twice hit back to salvage a thrilling 3-3 draw on Saturday.

The Reds led 2-0 and 3-2 thanks to Hugo Ekitike's quickfire double and Dominik Szoboszlai's strike but still failed to see the game out as they failed to win for the eighth time in their last 10 league games.

Slot's faith in Ibrahima Konate will again by questioned after the French centre-back conceded a penalty that began the Leeds fightback.

Results: Leeds: 3 (Calvert-Lewin 73rd pen, Stach 75th, Tanaka 90th+6) drew with Liverpool: 3 (Ekitike 48th, 50th, Szoboszlai 80th).

Brighton: 1 (Rutter 90+1st) drew with West Ham: 1 (Bowen 73rd.

Torres treble steers Barca

BARCELONA, AFP: Ferran Torres **(in pic)** netted a first-half hat-trick to help Barcelona thrash Real Betis 5-3 and move four points clear at the top of La Liga on Saturday.

Lamine Yamal and Roony Bardghji scored the other goals as the champions racked up what was mostly a comfortable victory in Seville, until they conceded two late goals.

Real Madrid, second, host Celta Vigo on Sunday aiming to reel Hansi Flick's side back in.

Fourth-place Atletico Madrid fell to a second defeat this week with a 1-0 loss at Athletic Bilbao.

Villarreal, third, kept the pressure on La Liga's top two with a 2-0 win over 10-man Getafe.

After some shaky performances Barca beat Diego Simeone's Atletico in midweek and then built on it with another triumph at Betis.

"We are fighting and (my players) were exhausted, so at the end not everyone was 100 percent, and this is normal," Flick told reporters.

"Today is positive. Really positive and compliments for my players."

Karnataka shuttlers dominate

BENGALURU, DHNS

It was a memorable day for young Karnataka shuttlers as the State clinched as many as four titles in the Yonex-Sunrise 37th Sub-junior under-15 & under-17 National Badminton Championships in Bhubaneshwar.

In the under-17 boys' doubles final, Pavan S and Punith S beat Assam's Aanayan Borah and Mizoram's Malsawhlua 21-19, 21-10 to be crowned winners.

In the corresponding girls' doubles final, Aditi Raj Deepak and Ponnamma BV Vriddhi finished first with a 21-19, 21-16 victory.

Punit and Aditi also clinched the under-17 mixed doubles title, beating Rajasthan's Arnav Sharma and Tamil Nadu's Anjana Manikandan 21-16, 21-14.

While in the U-15 section, No. 3 seed Sai Pushkar beat higher-ranked Harshit Khatri of Delhi to emerge as the champion.

Results (prefix denotes seedings):
U-17 Boys: Singles: 1-Jagsher Singh Khangurra (Pun) bt Viraj Sharma (PNB) 21-12, 21-13
Doubles: Pavan (Kar)/1-Punith S (Kar) bt Aanayan Borah (Asm)/Malsawhlua (Miz) 21-19, 21-10
Girls: Singles: Tanvi Patri (Ori) bt 6-Diksha SR (TN) 20-22, 21-17, 22-20
Doubles: Aditi Raj Deepak (Kar)/1-Ponnamma BV Vriddhi (Kar) bt 5-Ananya A (TN)/Anjana Manikandan (TN) 21-19, 21-16
Mixed Doubles: Punith (Kar)/1-Deepak Raj Aditi (Kar) bt 2-Arnav Sharma (Raj)/ Anjana Manikandan (TN) 21-16, 21-14
U-15 Boys: Singles: 3-Sai Pushkar (Kar) bt 2-Harshit Khatri (Del). **Doubles:** Swayamdyuti Ghosh (Ben)/1-Shaurya Singh Rana (Utr) bt 2-Jaivardhan Hooda (Har)/ Harshit Khatri (Del) 21-18, 19-21, 21-14
Girls: Singles: 4-Avni Vikram Govind (TS) bt 14-Tanvi Patri (Ori) 21-9, 21-13
Doubles: Sharayu Ranjane (Mah)/1-Soyara Shelar (Mah) bt 7-Swati Nayak/ Nimeesha Ojha 21-15, 21-14
Mixed Doubles: Nithin Prakash Ramasamy (TN)/3-Vijaya Tejashwini Dantuluri (AP) bt 4-Swayamdyuti Ghosh/ Neha S (TN) 21-11, 19-21, 21-13.

Sai Pushkar. FILE PHOTO

Saraswat crowned champion

GUWAHATI, PTI: India's' Sanskar Saraswat **(in pic)** clinched his maiden Super 100 title after eking out a three-game victory over compatriot Mithun Manjunath in the men's singles final of the Guwahati Masters here on Sunday.

The 19-year-old from Jodhpur showcased grit and firepower while unleashing a barrage of smashes to outwit former national champion Manjunath 21-11, 17-21, 21-13 in an all-Indian final that lasted 50 minutes.

However, Tanvi Sharma, a World Junior Championships silver medallist, registered a runner-up finish in women's singles after losing 18-21, 18-21 to Tung Ciou-Tong of Chinese Taipei in the finals.

The 16-year-old from Punjab had reached the semifinals at Syed Modi International Super 300 last week. She had reached the Odisha Masters final last year and finished runner-up at this year's US Open Super 300 and the World Junior Championships as well.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

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BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	North-1	BWSSB/EE(N)-1/PB/2823/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for Category-I)	Rs. 39,58,315/- / Rs. 39,583/-	22.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM	23.12.2025 After 5.30 PM
2		BWSSB/ENTE/TO/2824/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 10,61,093/- / Rs. 13,500/-	22.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM	23.12.2025 After 4.30 PM
3		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/PB/2825/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 55,74,962/- / Rs. 56,000/-	22.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM	23.12.2025 After 5.30 PM
4		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/2826/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 61,65,939/- / Rs. 1,23,500/-	15.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM	16.12.2025 After 5.30 PM
5		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/2827/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 33,30,922/- / Rs. 67,000/-	22.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM	23.12.2025 After 5.30 PM
6		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/PB/2828/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 33,76,622/- / Rs. 34,000/-	15.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM	16.12.2025 After 5.30 PM
7		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/2829/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 46,22,205/- / Rs.92,500/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/2830/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 37,09,750/- / Rs. 74,500/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/PB/2831/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	Rs. 45,12,900/- / Rs. 45,500/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/2832/ 2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 36,04,127/- / Rs. 72,500/-	22.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM	23.12.2025 After 5.30 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

12	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/ 3729/2025-26 Date: 05.12.2025 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	1	Rs. 14,42,046/- / Rs. 36,100/-	22.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM	24.12.2025 After 5.00 PM
			2	Rs. 11,92,204/- / Rs. 29,810/-		
13		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/ 3731/2025-26 Date: 05.12.2025 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	1	Rs. 21,54,191/- / Rs. 21,550/-		
			2	Rs. 36,29,346/- / Rs. 36,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East)-1

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4278/Zen/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
1	East-2	BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 2691, Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 64,89,500/- / Rs. 64,900/-	15.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	16.12.2025 at 4:00 p.m.
2		BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 2692, Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for Category - IIA)	Rs. 67,48,500/- / Rs. 67,500/-		
3		BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 2694, Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 33,32,200/- / Rs. 66,700/-		
4		BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 2696, Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 12,50,400/- / Rs. 31,300/-		
5		BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 2697, Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 65,24,000/- / Rs. 1,30,500/-		
6		BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 2698, Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 15,95,500/- / Rs. 39,900/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East)-2.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
7	West -2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26, Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 84,17,848/- / Rs. 1,68,400/-	22.12.2025 upto 3:00 p.m.	23.12.2025 after 3:00 p.m.
8		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26,Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 69,87,012/- / Rs. 1,39,800/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26,Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 55,61,166/- / Rs. 1,11,300/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26,Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 74,30,166/- / Rs. 1,48,700/-		
11		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26,Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 77,90,273/- / Rs. 1,55,900/-		
12		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26,Date: 06.12.2025	Rs. 96,54,821/- / Rs. 1,93,100/-		
13		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26, Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 69,60,842/- / Rs. 69,700/-		
14		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26, Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for Category - II A)	Rs. 78,56,954/- / Rs. 78,600/-		
15		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26, Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for Category - II A)	Rs. 72,31,807/- / Rs. 72,400/-		
16		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4347/ 2025-26, Date: 06.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 59,60,077/- / Rs. 59,600/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West - 2).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/4262/2025-26

IN BRIEF

Inter-college hockey in city

▸ Bengaluru will host the inaugural Dr Mumtaz Ahmed Khan Inter-collegiate hockey tournament for university degree boys, reports DHNS.

Scheduled for December 18-20, the competition, organised by Yes for Hockey, will take place at the Hockey Stadium in Shantinagar.

Registrations are open until December 15, and organisers have confirmed that outstation teams are eligibile for the event. For details, contact Manu Gowda: 9164148983.

KSFA's referees exam in Dec

▸ Referees Committee of Karnataka State Football Association will be conducting an entrance and promotional examination for referees in the third week of December at the Bangalore Football Stadium, reports DHNS.

The examinations and training sessions will also be at the Bangalore Football Stadium. For further details, contact Elangovan T: 9900141515.

Chethan, Pavan score braces

▸ Chethan MK and Pavan Madivalar scored a brace each as South Western Railway, Hubballi trounced Hockey Ballari 7-2 in the Hockey Karnataka Namdhari Cup on Sunday, reports DHNS.

Results: South Western Railway, Hubballi: 7 (Chethan MK 1st, 59th, Punith R 36th, Pavan Madivalar 40th, 50th, Kumar N 52nd, Jayavanth P 56th) bt Hockey Ballari: 2 (Arjun Halappa 44th, Vickram Kanth 50th).

K'taka, MP share honours on opening day

BENGALURU, DHNS: An even day's play came to an end at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur as Madhya Pradesh made 269 for six in 86 overs after recovering from 54/3 against Karnataka in their Vijay Merchant Trophy Elite group fixture.

Karnataka's new ball bowlers Vikram and Samarth M Kulkarni shared four scalps between them, picking up wickets at regular intervals. However, Arnav Ghodgaonkar (71), Atharv Patel (67 n.o.) and Kushagra Nagar (62) were at the forefront of Madhya Pradesh's fightback to make honours even on the first day.

Brief scores: Madhya Pradesh: 269/6 in 86 overs (Kushagra Nagar 62, Arnav Ghodgaonkar 71, Atharv Patel 67 n.o., Ritik Parab 28 n.o.; Vikram 2-77, Samarth M Kulkarni 2-34) vs Karnataka.

Dhanush, Ruhi lead Karnataka sweep

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Dhanush SM and Ruhi Singh clinched the boys' and girls' singles titles in the AITA U-12 National Series tennis tournament at the Infinity Tennis Academy here.

Results: Finals: Boys: Singles: Dhanush SM (Kar) bt Adhish PM (TN) 6-4, 6-1; **Doubles:** Riaan Nandakumar (Guj)/Dhanush SM (Kar) bt BC Thanush Shekar (Kar)/Adhish PM (TN) 7-6 (4), 7-5.
Girls: Singles: Ruhi Singh (Kar) bt Aneeksha Gavinolla (Tel) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; **Doubles:** Anisha Cornelio (Kar) Aneeksha Gavinolla (Tel) bt Kaashvi Venkat/ Ruhi Singh (Kar) 6-4, 5-7,10-4.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Assam vs Kerala, Chandigarh vs Hyderabad, Jharkhand vs Rajasthan **(all 11:00 am)**, Mumbai vs Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir vs Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra vs Tamil Nadu **(all 4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Wolves vs Manchester United **(1:30 am, Tuesday) LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

F1 ABU DHABI GP

NORRIS ASCENDS F1 THRONE

McLaren star seals maiden title after a nerve-jangling duel with Max, Piastri

ABU DHABI, AFP

A steely will to win behind his ready charm and easy-going persona helped Lando Norris depose Max Verstappen as king of Formula One in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

It was a tense drive with Verstappen dictating the race from the front, Norris' teammate and title rival Oscar Piastri overtaking him on the first lap and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc yapping at the Briton's heels as he sweated to the third place finish he needed.

The young British driver's maiden world drivers' championship, which came after a nail-biting season-long battle with Verstappen and Piastri, lands only six years after he joined the F1 fray as a teenager. McLaren had him on their books for two years before fast-tracking him into the big time following a runner-up finish to George Russell in the 2018 Formula Two feeder championship

Paired with Carlos Sainz he narrowly missed out on a top10 finish in his impressive rookie campaign, notably edging his more experienced teammate in their head-to-head qualifying battle. He made his first podium appearance in 2020 and narrowly missed out on a maiden win in Russia in 2021 when he dominated another more senior teammate Daniel Ricciardo.

His breakthrough win arrived last year in Miami - three more were to follow - as he emerged as Verstappen's biggest challenger and led McLaren to their first constructor's title since 1998. Norris's ascent to the F1 throne is no surprise to the man who first spotted his talent as a kid racing go-carts at the Clay Pigeon Raceway in Dorchester, south-west England - a world away from the glitz of Monaco where Norris nailed a record pole lap to win on the streets of the Principality in May.

"It's mad, innit," Rob Dodds told The Guardian newspaper on Saturday.

"It was obvious the kid had something. That was when I first noticed him," Dodds told the paper after watching the youngster post lap times far quicker than boys much older than him.

"Parents usually wait until the kids are about 10 or 11 to do national championships. We had Lando doing them from eight years old."

Norris was born to an English father, Adam, and a Belgian mother, Cisca, on November 13, 1999 just days after Mika Hakkinen defended his world title in a McLaren at Suzuka.

The British marque would have to wait until 2008 and Lewis Hamilton for their next title - before a long and frustrating slump which only ended on Sunday. But the good times are back at the Bahrain-supported outfit - two successive constructors' titles and now Norris delivering their 13th world drivers' championship and Britain's first since Hamilton in 2020.

An avid gamer and golfer whose go-to song before racing is 'Don't Let Me Go' by American rapper MGK, has been front and centre of F1's remarkable rise in popularity since Liberty Media took over in 2017 and the huge following it has gained from Netflix's 'Drive To Survive'.

His biggest fan is his girlfriend, Portuguese actor Margarida Corceiro, who has an Instagram following of over two million and who freely confessed this month: "I don't know anything about cars. I'm not useful for anything other than supporting someone."

Norris told Vogue in September: "She's someone I can very much be myself with. Very down to earth and she lives quite a crazy life as well.

"It's nice when we can both just (rent) a boat for the day or go home together and chill."

A fan of English second tier football club Bristol City he identifies a legend from two-wheel motorsport as one of his driving forces - seven-time MotoGP champion Valentino Rossi.

"MotoGP was my first passion before F1. Valentino Rossi was always my idol, he's the best and has always inspired me," said Norris, who chose 4, the first digit of Rossi's iconic 46, as his racing number.

Like the great Italian, Norris has a touch of stardust about him.

Drivers' standings	423 pts Lando Norris (McLaren)	421 Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	410 Oscar Piastri (McLaren)

Constructors' standings
833 pts McLaren | 451 Red Bull Racing
469 Mercedes AMG Petronas

LANDO NORRIS
British F1 driver
"It's incredible. It is pretty surreal. I've dreamed of this for a long, long time. I feel like I did my part for the team this year and I'm very proud of myself for that.

McLaren's Lando Norris celebrates on the podium with the trophy after becoming the F1 World Champion at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. REUTERS

Australia pick apart England

BRISBANE, AFP

Australia's Michael Neser picked up a five-wicket haul on the fourth day in Brisbane. REUTERS

Australia cruised to an emphatic eight-wicket win over England in the day-night second Ashes Test in Brisbane on Sunday for an ominous 2-0 lead in the series.

The hosts chased down the paltry target of 65 in just 10 overs, captain Steve Smith pulling Gus Atkinson for a huge six over square leg for the winning runs.

Although not as humiliating as the two-day loss in the first Test in Perth, England were comprehensively outplayed in Brisbane in every department.

Their batting, apart from Joe Root and Zak Crawley in the first innings and captain Ben Stokes and Will Jacks in the second, was just as rash as in Perth.

They gave their wickets away with poor strokes on the bouncy Gabba surface.

They also bowled poorly, pitching too short on the Gabba wicket and wasting the new pink ball, in stark contrast to an Australian attack missing spearheads Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

To make matters worse England dropped five catches in the first innings, whereas Australia's fielders caught everything that came their way.

Josh Inglis' brilliant run-out of Stokes in the first innings changed the course of the match.

Australia now have a 2-0 lead in the five-Test series and are overwhelming favourites to retain the Ashes with matches in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney to follow.

England were behind the game once they let Australia's tail help the home side post 511 on Saturday, an overall lead of 177.

Brief scores: England: 334 all out & (O/n:134/6) 241 all out in 75.2 overs (Zak Crawley 44, Ollie Pope 26, Ben Stokes 50, Will Jacks 41; Mitchell Starc 2-48, Michael Neser 5-42, Scott Boland 2-47) vs Australia: 511 all out & 69/2 in 10 overs (Gus Atkinson 2-37). **Result:** Australia won by 8 wkts. **Series:** Australia lead 5-match 2-0. **PoM:** Mitchel Starc. **Next match:** Dec 17 (Adelaide).

Meant no malice, clarifies Conrad

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI: South Africa cricket coach Shukri Conrad said he intended no malice with his "grovel" remark during the second Test in India after drawing criticism.

Speaking to the media for the first time since he made the comment last month, Conrad said he regretted his choice of word.

"On reflection it was never my intention to cause any malice or not be humble about anything," the 58-year-old said after his team went down to India in the third one-day international on Saturday in Visakhapatnam.

"I could have chosen a better word because it left it open for people to put their own context to it."

Speaking on Saturday, Conrad said: "The only context I ever intended it to be was that we wanted India to spend a lot of time in the field and make it really tough for them."

Prasad elected KSCA prez

Team Game Changers bag majority of posts in Sunday's elections

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former cricketer Venkatesh Prasad's team celebrates after winning the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) elections at M Chinnaswamy stadium on Sunday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Team Game Changers, led by Venkatesh Prasad, won the majority of the 16 seats in the Karnataka State Cricket Association Managing Committee polls, which were held on Sunday at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Former India pacer Prasad, defeated his rival KN Shanth Kumar to become the president of the association. While Prasad secured 749 votes, Shanth Kumar received 558 in the most closely watched KSCA elections in more than a decade.

The Prasad-led team also secured three other office-bearer posts, while the joint secretary's position went to B K Ravi from the opposing camp.

Another former India cricketer, Sujith Somasundar, defeated Vinod Shivappa 719-588 to become the vice-president, while Santosh Menon prevailed over E S Jairam 719-588 in a closely fought contest for the secretary's post.

B N Madhukar defeated M S Vinay 736-571 to win the treasurer's position. Against the run of play, Ravi overcame a stiff challenge from A V Shashidara 669-638. It will also be interesting to see the status of Menon's position nine days after he takes charge.

The newly elected secretary was declared eligible to remain in office for just nine days, according to the election officer, during the scrutiny of nominations.

"We are sitting here only because of all these people who have supported us, who have believed in us, and backed us through and through," said newly-elected president Prasad, while thanking the support extended by former cricketers and team-mates Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, among others.

"I think they believed in our purpose, in our cause, they had faith in us and so did the members. We are going to implement our manifesto, whatever we have said. So I thank you all for giving us an opportunity. And I am sure we are going to make sure that we do everything for the game."

Among the 11 non–office-bearer members, Team Brijesh managed to win four, including Shekar Shetty from the Mangalore Zone, who was elected unopposed.

KSCA election results: President: Venkatesh Prasad bt K N Shanth Kumar 749-558.

Vice-president: Sujith Somasundar bt Vinod Sivappa 719-588.

Secretary: Santosh Menon bt E S Jairam 675-632.

Jt Secretary: B K Ravi bt A V Shashidara 669-638.

Treasurer: B N Madhukar bt M S Vinay 736-571.

Life members: VM Manjunath (619 votes); Sailesh Poll (618).

Bangalore Zone: Kalpana Venkatachar (754); Aashish Amarlall (703; Avinash Vaidya (691).

Zonal representatives: Mysore: Srinivas Prasad (746).
Shivamogga: D S Arun (722).
Tumkur: C R Harish (734).
Dharwad: Veeranna Savadi (825).
Raichur: Kushal Patil Gadgi (704).
Mangalore: Shekar Shetty (unopposed).

Gambhir defends constant shuffles

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir insists batting flexibility matters.

Gautam Gambhir's penchant for shuffling cricketers has often come under sharp scrutiny, but the head coach insisted that "batting order is overrated" in white ball cricket, strongly hinting of him sticking to his trusted ways.

Forced by the combination, Ruturaj Gaikwad, a genuine opener, had to bat at No. 4 in the just-concluded ODI series, while all-rounder Washington Sundar has been a perennial floater in the line-up.

But Gambhir had his reasons.

"I think in a one-day format, you should know the template that you want to play with. I've always believed that in white-ball cricket, batting orders are very overrated, except the opening combination," said Gambhir in the post-match press conference here after India sealed a 2-1 ODI series win over the Proteas.

"In Test cricket, obviously, you've got to have a fixed batting order, but it (batting order) is very, very overrated (in white ball formats)," he added.

To further drive in his point, he gave the example of Washington who has been wearing different hats in each match.

"See, you're talking about someone who's got 100 at Manchester, a 50 at Oval who averages, what, 40-plus in Tests. Sometimes, you've got to look at balance as well. I know it's tough on someone like Washi, but then I think he's done an incredible job, batting at No. 3, No.5, No. 8.

"That's the kind of character he is, and that's the kind of character we want in that dressing room, who are willing to do everything for the team with a smile on his face, which me as a batter knows how tough it is," said Gambhir.

"I'm sure he's going to continue doing that and we're going to keep developing him because he's got a massive future ahead for Indian cricket," he added.

Gambhir acknowledged that dew played a massive role in shaping the outcome of all three ODIs in this series, but he was hardly surprised.

"We know that during this time of the year, toss can play a massive role because when you're bowling first or when you're bowling second, there's a lot of difference. Our bowlers felt in the first 2 games," he said.

Mandhana, Palash announce end of relationship

NEW DELHI, PTI: India batter Smriti Mandhana on Sunday announced that her wedding had been called off and urged fans and media to stop the speculation, while music composer Palash Muchhal confirmed that he had "decided to move on" from the relationship.

Muchhal also warned of legal action against those spreading defamatory rumours.

Mandhana, one of India's most prominent women cricketers, issued her first public statement on social media after rumours about her personal life had intensified over the past month.

She was supposed to marry Muchhal on November 23 but the wedding was postponed after Mandhana's father, Shriniwas was hospitalised due to a heart ailment.

"I need to clarify that the wedding is called off. I would like to close this matter here and implore all of you to do the same," she wrote.

Smriti Mandhana (right) Palash Muchhal. X

You have to treat Rohit and Kohli differently: Bangar

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI: Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma deserve to be treated differently for their body of work over the years and their place in the ODI side should have never been a topic of debate, reckons ex-India batting coach Sanjay Bangar.

"I don't think the place of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the team should have been a question. Look at what they have done over so many years," Bangar said while speaking to JioStar.

"They have retired from two formats, so it's obvious they might take just a couple of sessions to get back into action, because they have done it so often. They don't need to play as many matches as a younger player.

"Once they are there, once they are hungry and fit, you want players of that quality. You have to treat them differently and give them space," Bangar said, clear about why there needs to be a different yardstick for the two white-ball legends.

Young Simranpreet stuns top-class field for gold

DOHA, PTI: Young Simranpreet Kaur Brar (**in pic**) overcame a challenging field to win the women's 25m pistol gold while men's 50m rifle 3-position exponent Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar bagged a silver on ISSF World Cup Final debut here on Sunday, completing a full set of medals at all possible world and continental championships in the sport.

Simranpreet, whose father left his government job to support his daughter, did her parents proud with biggest achievement of her career by shooting a superb 41 in the final, equalling the World junior record in the process. The other Indian to qualify for the eight-shooter final, Esha Singh finished seventh. Double Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker could not make the final after finishing ninth in the qualification round with a score of 581.

In the qualification round 21-year-old Simranpreet, who had won a silver at the World Cup in Lima earlier this year, shot 585, while Esha tallied 585 to finish fifth and fourth respectively and make the final.

Simranpreet began slowly but kicked into top gear gradually to pocket the gold.

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